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Anisotropic linear forcing for synthetic turbulence generation in large eddy simulation and hybrid RANS/LES modeling

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A general forcing method for Large Eddy Simulation (LES) is proposed for the purpose of providing the flow with fluctuations that satisfy a desired statistical state. This method, the *Anisotropic Linear Forcing* (ALF) introduces an unsteady linear tensor function of the resolved velocity which acts as a restoring force in the mean velocity and resolved stress budgets. The ALF generalizes and extends several forcing previously proposed in the literature. In order to make it possible to impose the integral length scale of the turbulence generated by the forcing term, an alternative formulation of the ALF, using a differential spatial filter, is proposed and analyzed. The anisotropic forcing of the Reynolds stresses is particularly attractive, since unsteady turbulent fluctuations can be locally enhanced or damped, depending on the target stresses. As such, it is shown that the ALF is an effective method to promote turbulent fluctuations downstream of the LES inlet or at the interface between RANS and LES in zonal hybrid RANS/LES modeling. The detailed analysis of the influence of the ALF parameters in spatially developing channel flows and hybrid computations where the ALF target statistics are given by a RANS second-moment closure show that this original approach performs as well as the synthetic eddy method. However, since the ALF method is more flexible and significant computational savings are obtained, the method appears a promising all-in-one solution for general embedded LES simulations. © 2015 AIP Publishing LLC. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4916019>]

I. INTRODUCTION

In many industrial applications, the unsteady description of large scale, energetic structures of turbulence is of major interest in order to predict unsteady aerodynamics loads and thermal fatigue, among others. While Large Eddy Simulation (LES) is able to capture these structures, the prohibitive numerical cost in the near-wall region hinders the spreading of this method into the daily engineering practice. Therefore, for industrial studies of high Reynolds number wall-bounded flows, the use of LES will be restricted to specific regions of the flow, for the foreseeable future. In response, an intense research effort is nowadays dedicated to the development of hybrid RANS/LES modeling of turbulence, offering an intermediate resolution between LES and a low-cost statistical description of the flow (RANS). In many of these new generation approaches, one single set of model equations is used in the whole domain and the level of description of turbulence is locally selected based on grid spacing and/or flow conditions, resulting in RANS in the near-wall region and LES in the core region (see Refs. 1–3, for instance). These approaches are referred

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to as global hybrid RANS/LES methods in the classification of Sagaut *et al.*⁴ A second class of methods, referred to as zonal hybrid RANS/LES methods, restricts the RANS and LES models to separated sub-domains and aims at properly interface the two models. This approach is well suited for applications where the unsteady description of the flow is only required in a reduced region of interest, whereas the influence of the surrounding environment on this region demands a much larger computational domain. For instance, such situations arise in the numerical study of the sealing systems of hydraulic turbomachinery: on the one hand, an unsteady resolution of turbulence using LES is mandatory in some specific low Reynolds number regions of mixing of hot and cold water; on the other hand, the computational domain must be extended by a far larger RANS region, in order to take into account several other physical phenomena such as rotor/stator interactions and heat exchanges.

One of the main challenges for hybrid methods consists in correctly matching the LES and RANS variables at the interface, be it discontinuous (zonal approach) or diffuse (global approach). When the RANS domain is upstream of the LES domain, referred to as *RANS to LES* coupling below, the problem is closely related to the problem of inflow boundary conditions for spatially developing LES. The objective is to enrich the RANS solution, representative of those of a developed flow, in order to reduce the development distance downstream of the beginning of the LES region. A comparative study of several methods of generation of such inflow conditions was provided by Keating *et al.*⁵ The parameters of the method must be fully determined by the RANS and the LES computations. A few applications on relatively simple geometries are reported in the literature.^{6,7} It is worth noting that synthetic turbulence methods,^{8,9} for which the turbulent fluctuations are directly modeled, appear easier to parametrize from the local low order statistics of RANS than more advanced methods, based on recycling procedures,¹⁰ for instance.

In association with generation of synthetic turbulent fluctuations at the interface, a second coupling approach investigated in the literature is a volume forcing of the momentum equation. A few authors¹¹ have considered a feedback forcing in the RANS equations. Various forcing methods have been proposed for various RANS/LES configurations. Spille-Kohoff and Kaltenbach¹² (SKK) proposed a fluctuating forcing of the wall-normal velocity in order to promote turbulent fluctuations in a set of forcing planes close to the LES inlet. Their forcing is based on a controller based on the turbulent shear stress. This technique has been successfully applied by Keating *et al.*,⁶ in association with a synthetic turbulence generation method. Laraufie *et al.*¹³ (LDS) proposed several modifications of this method. In particular, the controller is based on the wall normal turbulent stress rather than the shear stress. They studied in detail the influence of different parameters of the method and showed that, associated with the synthetic eddy method⁹ to generate fluctuating boundary conditions at the inlet, using the refined version proposed by Pamiès *et al.*,¹⁴ the forcing yields an appreciable reduction of the adaptation distance downstream of the inlet. A volume forcing of the LES has also been proposed by Schlüter *et al.*¹⁵ in the context of *LES to RANS* zonal coupling, i.e., when the RANS domain is downstream of the LES domain. This forcing of the mean flow was applied in order to sensitize the upstream LES to the downstream RANS computation despite uncoupled outflow boundary conditions for the LES, in order to avoid reflections.¹⁶ Note that Benarafa *et al.*¹⁷ have employed the forcing of Schlüter *et al.*¹⁵ in the whole LES domain, in order to achieve unsteady computations with realistic velocity moments, despite a relatively coarse mesh. A comparable hybridization of the resolution is the NLDE approach.¹⁸ Similarly, Xiao and Jenny¹¹ have recently proposed a two-way forcing of entirely overlapping RANS and LES domains for the purpose of obtaining a consistent formalism for dual-mesh hybrid RANS/LES modeling. Although their forcing in the LES momentum equation has the potential to individually control all the components of the resolved stress tensor, only the resolved kinetic energy is actually controlled in the applications presented in their study.

In the present paper, a new body force is proposed, in order to impose, in a restricted zone at the beginning of the LES region, target statistics of the flow (mean velocities and resolved stresses). Although this forcing can potentially be extended to global hybrid RANS/LES methods, the present article focuses on zonal coupling. The method is derived based on the analysis of the statistical effects of momentum forcing, which is described in Sec. II A. After a brief discussion, within this statistical framework, of the various forcings proposed in the literature (Sec. II B), the present

method, the so-called *Anisotropic Linear Forcing* (ALF), is derived (Sec. II C). The main characteristic of the ALF is that the force linearly depends on the instantaneous velocity via a tensorial relation. Therefore, it is shown in Sec. II D that it actually generalizes the linear isotropic forcing introduced in the context of isotropic turbulence by Lundgren¹⁹ and further analyzed by Rosales and Meneveau.²⁰ Section III is dedicated to the validation of the ALF in homogeneous turbulence. The case of isotropic turbulence is considered first, in order to verify that the interesting properties of the isotropic linear forcing exhibited by Rosales and Meneveau²⁰ are recovered with the present formulation. Then the ALF is applied in various anisotropic homogeneous cases, aiming to demonstrate that it is able to force the LES towards any anisotropic turbulent state. In Sec. IV, the more complex case of spatially developing channel flow is considered. The ALF is first applied to the whole computation domain of a LES forced towards its fully developed moments. This case is used to discuss the influence of the parameters of the forcing. Applications of the ALF to zonal RANS to LES coupling are presented in Sec. IV B. The forcing is applied in a reduced area downstream the LES inlet and overlapping the upstream RANS region, in order to generate turbulent fluctuations in the LES domain, and compared with the synthetic eddy method at the LES inlet.

II. MATHEMATICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Statistical effect of a forcing

The filtered momentum equation of LES for an incompressible flow with an additional body force f_i is considered,

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial t} + \tilde{u}_j \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial x_i} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j \partial x_j} - \frac{\partial \tau_{ij}}{\partial x_j} + f_i, \quad (1)$$

where the tilde $\tilde{\cdot}$ denotes the LES filtering operator and $\tau_{ij} = \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j - \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j$ is the subgrid scale tensor. The body force f_i can be split into its Reynolds averaged part $\langle f_i \rangle$ and its fluctuating part f'_i as

$$f_i = \langle f_i \rangle + f'_i. \quad (2)$$

Using this decomposition, the contribution of f_i to the mean filtered momentum equation writes (throughout this paper, angular brackets $\langle \cdot \rangle$ are used to indicate a statistical average)

$$\frac{\partial \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \langle \tilde{p} \rangle}{\partial x_i} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle}{\partial x_j^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle - \frac{\partial \langle \tau_{ij} \rangle}{\partial x_j} + \langle f_i \rangle, \quad (3)$$

where

$$u'_i = \tilde{u}_i - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle, \quad (4)$$

such that $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle$ is the resolved part of the Reynolds stress tensor. Obviously, only the averaged part $\langle f_i \rangle$ of the body force acts on the mean flow. It is also useful to exhibit the contribution of f_i in the equation for the resolved stress. Eqs. (1) and (3) lead to

$$\frac{\partial \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle \frac{\partial \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle}{\partial x_j} = P_{ij}^r + P_{ij}^f + \phi_{ij}^r + \chi_{ij} + D_{ij}^{Tr} + D_{ij}^r + D_{ij}^{vr} - \varepsilon_{ij}^r, \quad (5)$$

where P_{ij}^r , ϕ_{ij}^r , D_{ij}^{Tr} , D_{ij}^{vr} , and ε_{ij}^r denote the resolved production, pressure-strain, turbulent diffusion, viscous diffusion, and dissipation terms, analogous to those involved in the unfiltered Reynolds stress equations, and

$$\begin{aligned} D_{ij}^r &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} \langle \tau'_{il} u'_j + \tau'_{jl} u'_i \rangle, \\ \chi_{ij} &= \langle \tau'_{il} \frac{\partial u'_j}{\partial x_l} + \tau'_{jl} \frac{\partial u'_i}{\partial x_l} \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The forcing introduces the additional term

$$P_{ij}^f = \langle f'_i u'_j \rangle + \langle f'_j u'_i \rangle \quad (7)$$

that only depends on the fluctuating part of the force. This term increases or damps the resolved stresses, depending on the sign. In Sec. II B, the action of the forcing is analyzed through these two aspects: its effect on the mean flow (Eq. (3)) and its effect on the resolved stresses (Eq. (7)).

B. Analysis of previously proposed forcing methods

1. Forcing of the mean flow

The mathematical formulation of the forcing introduced by Schlüter *et al.*¹⁵ is

$$f_i = \frac{1}{\tau_f} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle), \quad (8)$$

where τ_f is a time scale and $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger$ is the target mean velocity. In order to estimate the mean filtered velocity $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle$, in the framework of stationary flows, an explicit time filtering is applied,²³ most commonly using an exponential filter, denoted by \mathcal{G}_T . In differential form, \mathcal{G}_T is written as

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{G}_T(\phi)}{\partial t} = \frac{\phi - \mathcal{G}_T(\phi)}{T}, \quad (9)$$

where the parameter T specifies the temporal width of the filter. Therefore, the forcing applied by Schlüter *et al.* can be written as

$$f_i = \frac{1}{\tau_f} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \mathcal{G}_T(\tilde{u}_i)). \quad (10)$$

For stationary flows, $\mathcal{G}_T(\phi)$ goes to the statistical average $\langle \phi \rangle$ in the limit of infinite temporal filter widths, such that Eq. (8) is recovered. In this case, the forcing simply gives rise to

$$\langle f_i \rangle = \frac{1}{\tau_f} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle) \quad \text{and} \quad P_{ij}^f = 0 \quad (11)$$

in the mean momentum equations and the resolved stress budgets, respectively. As expected, the body force drives the mean filtered velocity $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle$ towards its target RANS value $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger$. In contrast, the forcing has no direct effect on the resolved Reynolds stresses, which is consistent with the objective of Schlüter *et al.*¹⁵ and Benarafa *et al.*¹⁷ to compel a developed LES to satisfy a particular mean flow field.

It is also instructive to investigate the behavior of Eq. (10) in the limit $T \rightarrow 0$. In this case, the Gaussian filtering reduces to $\mathcal{G}_0(\phi) = \phi$ and the forcing becomes

$$f_i = \frac{1}{\tau_f} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \tilde{u}_i). \quad (12)$$

Although it is counter-intuitive, since the RANS and LES variables represent very different physical quantities, this forcing, also considered by Schlüter *et al.*¹⁵ in their parametric study, leads to

$$\langle f_i \rangle = \frac{1}{\tau_f} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle) \quad \text{and} \quad P_{ij}^f = -\frac{2}{\tau_f} \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle. \quad (13)$$

Thus, this forcing tends to impose the target mean velocity, and at the same time, it acts as a destruction term for the resolved stresses. The fact that the forcing of Eq. (12) severely damps the turbulent fluctuations was reported by Schlüter *et al.*¹⁵

For the intermediate cases corresponding to $0 < T < \infty$, the role played by the forcing can be clarified by considering its effect on the low-pass filtered stress,

$$\langle (\mathcal{G}_T(\tilde{u}_i) - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle) (\mathcal{G}_T(\tilde{u}_j) - \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle) \rangle. \quad (14)$$

In the budget of this quantity, forcing (10) introduces the destruction term

$$-\frac{2}{\tau_f} \langle (\mathcal{G}_T(\tilde{u}_i) - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle) (\mathcal{G}_T(\tilde{u}_j) - \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle) \rangle, \quad (15)$$

which damps turbulent fluctuations at time scales larger than the temporal filter width T .

2. Forcing of the fluctuations

Two similar forcing methods were proposed by SKK¹² and LDS.¹³

In order to enhance or damp local flow events that contribute to the production of the shear stress,⁵ the SKK forcing term acts in the wall normal direction only,

$$f_i = r_{\text{SKK}} u' \delta_{i2}. \quad (16)$$

r_{SKK} is a factor determined by a Proportional-Integral (PI) controller defined as

$$r_{\text{SKK}} = \alpha e + \beta \int_0^t e \, dt', \quad \text{with} \quad e = \langle u'v' \rangle^\dagger - \langle u'v' \rangle, \quad (17)$$

where $\langle u'v' \rangle^\dagger$ is the target shear stress, given by a RANS computation. Note that the energy content of the subgrid scales is usually considered negligible, such that the Reynolds stresses computed by a RANS model are used, without correction, as the target for the LES resolved stresses. However, a wiser approach, using an estimate of the subgrid scale energy, is possible, as will be presented in Sec. IV B 1. The parameters of the controller, α and β , are chosen in order to optimize the reduction of the error e . Finally, the forcing is only applied in flow regions where the following conditions are satisfied:

$$|u'| < 0.6U_b, \quad |v'| < 0.4U_b, \quad |u'v'| < 0.0015U_b^2.$$

Considering Eq. (16), it is immediately observed that $\langle f_i \rangle = 0$. The SKK forcing has no direct effect on the mean flow, only on turbulent fluctuations, as was intended by the authors. The resolved stress production of the forcing is

$$P_{11}^f = P_{23}^f = P_{33}^f = 0, \quad P_{22}^f = 2r_{\text{SKK}} \langle u'v' \rangle, \quad P_{12}^f = r_{\text{SKK}} \langle u'^2 \rangle, \quad P_{23}^f = r_{\text{SKK}} \langle u'w' \rangle. \quad (18)$$

Since $\langle u'^2 \rangle > 0$, the shear stress production P_{12}^f due to the forcing is positive (resp. negative) when $\langle u'v' \rangle$ is smaller (resp. larger) than the target value $\langle u'v' \rangle^\dagger$, tending to adjust the resolved shear stress to the target. Therefore, from the statistical point of view, it can be seen that, by promoting wall-normal fluctuations, the forcing selectively produces resolved stresses $\langle v'^2 \rangle$, $\langle u'v' \rangle$ and $\langle v'w' \rangle$, at a rate depending on the gap between the resolved and target shear-stress $\langle u'v' \rangle$. When the target is approached, the control factor r_{SKK} goes to zero, such a way that the forcing term vanishes.

Similarly to the SKK forcing, the LDS forcing introduces a fluctuating force in the direction normal to the wall, but now proportional to the wall-normal, rather than streamwise, fluctuating velocity,

$$f_i = r_{\text{LDS}} v' \delta_{i2}. \quad (19)$$

The LDS term yields $\langle f_i \rangle = 0$, similar to the SKK forcing, but the turbulent production tensor is

$$P_{11}^f = P_{13}^f = P_{33}^f = 0, \quad P_{22}^f = 2r_{\text{LDS}} \langle v'^2 \rangle, \quad P_{12}^f = r_{\text{LDS}} \langle u'v' \rangle, \quad P_{23}^f = r_{\text{LDS}} \langle v'w' \rangle. \quad (20)$$

Moreover, the control factor r_{LDS} is evaluated from the wall-normal turbulent stress as

$$r_{\text{LDS}} = \alpha(\langle v'^2 \rangle^\dagger - \langle v'^2 \rangle), \quad (21)$$

such that the P_{22}^f component adjusts the wall normal turbulent stress to its target value.

Equations (18) and (20) reveal that, as a side effect, the SKK and LDS terms both introduce additional production of components other than those used in the control factor (i.e., $\langle v'^2 \rangle$ and $\langle v'w' \rangle$ for SKK, $\langle u'v' \rangle$ and $\langle v'w' \rangle$ for LDS). Since the controller focuses on a single resolved stress component, these forcing methods cannot control the anisotropy of the turbulence they generate, in contrast with the ALF method introduced in Sec. II C.

C. Formulation of the ALF

The anisotropic linear forcing takes the general form of a tensorial linear function

$$f_i = A_{ij} \tilde{u}_j + B_i, \quad (22)$$

where the deterministic parameters of the forcings A_{ij} and B_i are a second order tensor and a vector, respectively. Note that the forcing methods presented above, Eqs. (12), (16) and (19), all belong to this general type of forcing, with

$$A_{ij} = -\frac{1}{\tau_f} \delta_{ij}, \quad B_i = \frac{1}{\tau_f} \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger; \quad (23)$$

$$A_{ij} = r_{\text{SKK}} \delta_{i2} \delta_{j2}, \quad B_i = -r_{\text{SKK}} \langle \tilde{v} \rangle \delta_{i2}; \quad (24)$$

and

$$A_{ij} = r_{\text{LDS}} \delta_{i2} \delta_{j1}, \quad B_i = -r_{\text{LDS}} \langle \tilde{u} \rangle \delta_{i2}; \quad (25)$$

respectively. For the sake of simplicity, and because it is sufficient for our purpose, the analysis below is restricted to the case of symmetric A_{ij} tensors.

The mean part of f_i , which contributes to the mean momentum equation, is

$$\langle f_i \rangle = A_{ij} \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle + B_i, \quad (26)$$

and the fluctuating part

$$f'_i = A_{ij} u'_j. \quad (27)$$

As a result, the body force of Eq. (22) contributes to the budget of the resolved stress $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle$ through the production term (see Eq. (7))

$$P_{ij}^f = A_{ik} \langle u'_j u'_k \rangle + A_{jk} \langle u'_i u'_k \rangle. \quad (28)$$

Therefore, the ALF bears some similarity to the natural process of turbulent production in Eq. (5),

$$P_{ij}^r = -\frac{\partial \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle}{\partial x_k} \langle u'_j u'_k \rangle - \frac{\partial \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle}{\partial x_k} \langle u'_i u'_k \rangle. \quad (29)$$

It is worth pointing out that turbulent production P_{ij}^r arises from the inertial terms in the subgrid scale momentum equation, of the form $(\partial \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle / \partial x_k) u'_i$, i.e., terms formally and dimensionally similar to fluctuating part (27) of the ALF, in which A_{ij} plays the role of the mean velocity gradient. As a consequence, any tensor field A_{ij} that satisfies Galilean invariance is physically admissible. Appendix A provides a formal proof, for the particular form of A_{ij} and B_i used below, that the force f_i is objective, i.e., invariant under Euclidean transformations.

In order to drive the mean velocity $\langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle$ and the resolved stress tensor $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle$ toward target values, the constraints

$$\langle f_i \rangle = \frac{1}{\tau_v} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle), \quad (30)$$

$$P_{ij}^f = \frac{1}{\tau_r} (\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger - \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle) \quad (31)$$

are imposed, which act as restoring forces, with relaxation times τ_v and τ_r for the mean velocity and the resolved stress tensor, respectively. In the context of hybrid RANS/LES, $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger$ and $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger$ will be obtained from RANS variables (see Sec. IV B 1), but in general, target statistics of the forcing can be given, for instance, by an experiment, a DNS or a highly resolved LES. Eqs. (26), (30), (28), and (31) lead to the system

$$A_{ij} \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle + B_i = \frac{1}{\tau_v} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle), \quad (32)$$

$$A_{ik} \langle u'_j u'_k \rangle + A_{jk} \langle u'_i u'_k \rangle = \frac{1}{\tau_r} (\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger - \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle), \quad (33)$$

which implicitly determines the coefficients A_{ij} and B_i of the ALF. The statistics $\langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle$ and $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle$ are estimated during the computation. Eq. (33) is a second order tensorial algebraic equation, in the form,

$$\mathbf{AR} + \mathbf{RA} = \mathbf{H}. \quad (34)$$

This tensorial equation is frequently encountered in continuum mechanics and its analytical inversion has been extensively studied (Refs. 24 and 25 for instance). Hoger and Carlson²⁶ provided a general solution under the form²⁴

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{2} \left[I_3 (I_1 I_2 - I_3) \right]^{-1} & \left[I_1 \mathbf{R}^2 \mathbf{H} \mathbf{R}^2 - I_1^2 (\mathbf{R}^2 \mathbf{H} \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{R} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{R}^2) \right. \\ & + (I_1 I_2 - I_3) (\mathbf{R}^2 \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{H} \mathbf{R}^2) \\ & + (I_1^3 + I_3) \mathbf{R} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{R} - I_1^2 I_2 (\mathbf{R} \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{H} \mathbf{R}) \\ & \left. + (I_1^2 I_3 + I_2 (I_1 I_2 - I_3)) \mathbf{H} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

where I_1 , I_2 , and I_3 are the principal invariants of \mathbf{R} ,

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= R_{ii}, \quad I_2 = (R_{ii} R_{jj} - R_{ij} R_{ji})/2, \\ I_3 &= (R_{ii} R_{jj} R_{kk} - 3 R_{ii} R_{jk} R_{jk} + 2 R_{ik} R_{jl} R_{kl})/6. \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

B_i 's are then explicitly determined by Eq. (32), i.e.,

$$B_i = \frac{1}{\tau_v} (\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle) - A_{ij} \langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle, \quad (37)$$

such that the ALF term in Eq. (22) is completely defined.

It can be noticed that Eqs. (35) and (37) only depend on the statistical moments of filtered velocity \tilde{u}_i , in accordance with the definition of A_{ij} and B_i as deterministic coefficients. Relaxation times τ_r and τ_v are adjustable parameters that control the intensity of the ALF.

D. Restriction to the isotropic case and link with the linear forcing of Lundgren

The specific case of homogeneous isotropic turbulence (HIT) is now considered. Specifically, an initially isotropic flow is considered and the target statistics of the forcing are defined as

$$\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger = 0, \quad (38)$$

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger = \frac{2}{3} k_r^\dagger \delta_{ij}, \quad (39)$$

where $k_r = \frac{1}{2} \langle u'_i u'_i \rangle$ denotes the resolved turbulent energy. In that case, the flow necessarily remains statistically isotropic, such that the turbulent statistics are characterized by a single quantity, k_r ,

$$\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle = 0, \quad (40)$$

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle = \frac{2}{3} k_r \delta_{ij}. \quad (41)$$

Substituting Eqs. (39) and (41) into Eq. (33), it can be seen that the production of the forcing P_{ij}^f is

$$\frac{4}{3} k_r A_{ij} = \frac{1}{\tau_r} \left(\frac{2}{3} k_r^\dagger - \frac{2}{3} k_r \right) \delta_{ij} \quad (42)$$

and the A_{ij} coefficients are given by

$$A_{ij} = \frac{1}{2\tau_r} \left(\frac{k_r^\dagger}{k_r} - 1 \right) \delta_{ij}. \quad (43)$$

Moreover, Eqs. (32), (38), and (40) imply that $\langle f_i \rangle = 0$, such that

$$f_i = \frac{1}{2\tau_r} \left(\frac{k_r^\dagger}{k_r} - 1 \right) u'_i. \quad (44)$$

This isotropic restriction of the ALF, denoted as the Isotropic Linear Forcing (ILF) below, is a variant of the linear forcing term of the form

$$f_i = A u'_i \quad (45)$$

proposed by Lundgren¹⁹ in order to generate a stationary isotropic turbulence. Since the turbulent energy equation, including the production due to this forcing, writes

$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} = -\varepsilon + 2Ak, \quad (46)$$

equilibrium is obtained for

$$A = \frac{\varepsilon}{3u_{\text{rms}}'^2}. \quad (47)$$

The intensity of Lundgren's forcing is thus fixed in order to balance dissipation, such that turbulence remains at equilibrium, while the ILF is a restoring force that tends to bring turbulence back toward equilibrium.

Introducing a forcing term is standard in numerical studies of isotropic turbulence but, in the majority of cases, the forcing is defined in Fourier space and is restricted to low wavenumbers (see the review of Rosales and Meneveau²⁰). In contrast, the linear forcing of Lundgren¹⁹ is applied in physical space and affects the whole wavenumber range, such that it can be easily applied to standard CFD codes.

Rosales and Meneveau²⁰ extensively analyzed the properties of linearly forced isotropic turbulence (summarized in Sec. III A). The authors directly prescribed the A coefficient in Eq. (45), inherently prescribing the integral time scale k/ε . Alternatively, they verified that a constant dissipation rate ε^\dagger can be imposed in the numerator of Eq. (47) while the denominator $u_{\text{rms}}'^2$ is evaluated during the computation. Since, at equilibrium, ε^\dagger corresponds to the rate of energy produced by the forcing, this approach is very similar to the one leading to the ILF (and, more generally, to the ALF). Since the ILF corresponds to replacing the coefficient A of Eq. (47) by

$$A = \frac{1}{2\tau_r} \left(\frac{k_r^\dagger}{k_r} - 1 \right), \quad (48)$$

the production of the forcing is not directly prescribed but adjusts to the k_r^\dagger and τ_r parameters. At equilibrium, this production is balanced by dissipation such that

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\tau_r} (k_r^\dagger - k_r). \quad (49)$$

Substituting Eq. (49) into Eq. (48), expression (47) of Lundgren's forcing is recovered.

III. APPLICATION TO HOMOGENEOUS TURBULENCE

A. Homogeneous isotropic case

In the present section, the ALF is validated in the case of HIT. The domain is a triply periodic box of size $L^3 = (2\pi)^3$, discretized by $N^3 = 32^3$ cells. The flow is initialized using an isotropic turbulent field generated by applying a spatial filter to an instantaneous DNS flow field²⁷ at $Re_\lambda = 104.5$. The subgrid stresses are modeled by the Smagorinsky model,

$$\tau_{ij}^d = -2(C_s \tilde{\Delta})^2 |\tilde{S}| \tilde{S}_{ij}, \quad |\tilde{S}| = \sqrt{2\tilde{S}_{ij}\tilde{S}_{ij}}, \quad (50)$$

where $\tau_{ij}^d = \tau_{ij} - \frac{1}{3}\tau_{kk}\delta_{ij}$ is the deviatoric part of the subgrid tensor, $C_s = 0.18$ is the Smagorinsky constant, and $\tilde{\Delta} = L/N$ is the filter width, equal to the grid step.

The computations presented throughout this paper are performed with the open source CFD software *Code_Saturne* developed by EDF (<http://www.code-saturne.org>). The solver is based on a finite volume method with a collocated arrangement on unstructured grids. Velocity–pressure coupling is performed using a predictor–corrector algorithm similar to the SIMPLEC method (see, for instance, Ref. 22). The time discretization is second order accurate, with a Crank–Nicholson scheme for the time derivative and a second order extrapolation of the source terms. The spatial discretization of the convective fluxes is centered and second order accurate. All linear systems are solved by iterative processes. In this paper, the Jacobi method is used for all variables except the

pressure during the correction step, which is solved by a multi-grid procedure and the conjugate gradient method.

For the ILF method described in Sec. II D, the isotropy of the statistics is assumed *a priori*, such that it is only parametrized (see Eq. (44)) by the relaxation time scale τ_r and the target resolved turbulent energy k_r^\dagger . Here, the flow is forced to its initial resolved energy level, $k_r^\dagger = k_0$. In contrast, the ALF does not assume *a priori* the isotropy of the resolved statistics but brings them toward the isotropic target Reynolds stresses,

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger = \frac{2}{3} k_0 \delta_{ij}. \quad (51)$$

In both approaches, no explicit forcing of the mean flow is taken into account in this homogeneous case, which corresponds to the limit $\tau_v \rightarrow \infty$ in Eq. (32). The operator used to estimate $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle$ and $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle$ is a spatial averaging over the domain. All the quantities are made non-dimensional using the initial turbulent energy level k_0 and the size of the domain L .

Figure 1 shows the time evolution of the resolved kinetic energy for three values of the dimensionless time scale of the Reynolds stress forcing: $\tau_r^* = 0.01, 0.05, 0.1$. It is observed that, after a transient decay, the forcing drives the turbulent energy towards the target value, and a permanent state is reached. The turbulent energy oscillates around its time-averaged value, denoted by $\langle k_r \rangle_t$. This behavior is consistent with the observations made by Rosales and Meneveau²⁰ using DNS. As expected, the results obtained with the ALF and with its isotropic restriction, the ILF, are similar but not identical, since the initial field is not perfectly isotropic. With both formulations of the linear forcing, the turbulent energy level sustained by the forcing in the permanent state is always below the target k_0 , since the forcing vanishes when the target is approached. The ratio k_r/k_0 monotonically depends on the relaxation time scale τ_r^* .

The time evolution of the resolved energy spectrum $E(\kappa)$ is presented in Figs. 2 and 3. For the sake of visibility, the evolutions during the decay (before the energy reaches its minimum) and during the growth phase (until the permanent state is reached) are plotted in separated graphs in Fig. 2.

During the initial energy decay (Fig. 2(a)), the energy decreases rapidly within the high wavenumber range ($\kappa > 4$) whilst the largest eddies sustain their energy. Then the decrease at high wavenumbers slows down and energy at low wavenumbers starts to increase. In the growth phase (Fig. 2(b)), the forcing leads to a strong gain of energy in the low wavenumber range. In contrast, energy decreases in the high wavenumber range. It is worth noting that, by definition, the linear forcing acts on all the wavenumbers, as can be seen in the equation for the energy spectrum,¹⁹

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 2\nu\kappa^2 - 2A \right) E(\kappa) = T(\kappa). \quad (52)$$

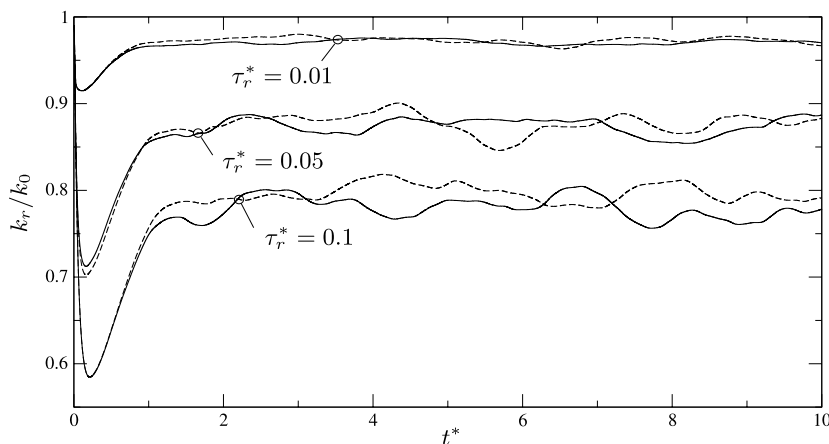


FIG. 1. Time evolution of turbulent kinetic energy. Forcing of a HIT toward its initial energy level k_0 for $\tau_r^* = 0.01, 0.05, 0.1$. Black solid line: ALF; dashed lines: ILF.

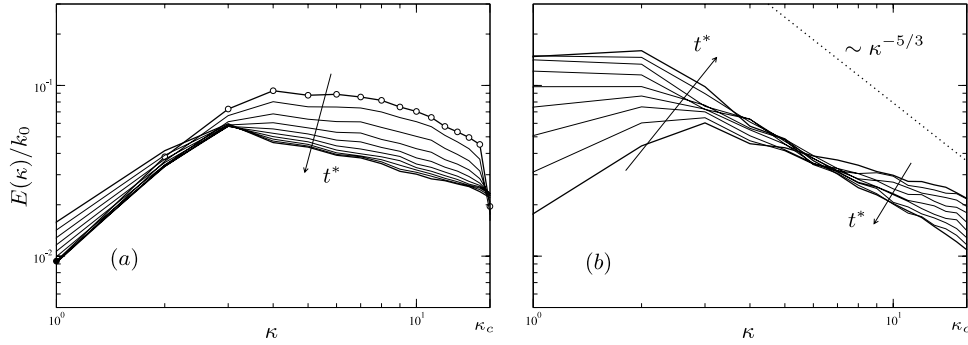


FIG. 2. Evolution of the kinetic energy spectrum during the transient phase. Forcing of a HIT towards its initial energy level k_0 for $\tau_r^* = 0.1$. (a) Decreasing phase ($0 \leq t^* \leq 0.18$, lines are plotted at intervals of $\delta t^* = 0.02$), (b) increasing phase, ($0.2 \leq t^* \leq 1$, $\delta t^* = 0.1$). The initial spectrum is indicated by the circles.

Once turbulence has reached a permanent state, the energy spectrum is stationary (Fig. 3). Here again, the results produced by the ALF and the ILF are very similar. Comparing graphs 3(a) and 3(b), it also appears that the global shape of the spectrum is independent of the forcing parameter τ_r . The mean spectrum behaves as $\kappa^{-\alpha}$ on a wide wavenumber range, up to the cut-off wavenumber κ_c . As for the DNS of Lundgren¹⁹ and Rosales and Meneveau,²⁰ α is close to 5/3 in the present LES, indicating that the linear forcing is compatible with an inertial cascade.

At equilibrium, Eq. (49) can be used to evaluate the integral time scale T and the length scale L_{\parallel} defined by

$$T = \frac{\langle u_{\text{rms}}^2 \rangle_t}{\varepsilon}, \quad L_{\parallel} = \frac{\langle u_{\text{rms}}^3 \rangle_t}{\varepsilon}, \quad (53)$$

where $u'_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{2\langle k_r \rangle_t/3}$ is the rms of the resolved velocity. The results are reported in Table I.

It is observed that the integral time scale T slightly depends on the forcing parameter τ_r . The dependency of T on τ_r is not trivial, since A in Eq. (48) is a function of $1/\tau_r$ and is also implicitly dependent on k_0/k_r , as shown in Fig. 1. Table I indicates that the forcing parameter τ_r globally exhibits a moderate influence on the integral time scale T .

B. Control of the integral length scale

Rosales and Meneveau,²⁰ showed, using dimensional analysis, that the linear forcing introduces a time scale into the system but no length scale. In essence, this leaves only the box size L as an available characteristic scale for the large scales to fix the dissipation rate: $\varepsilon \sim A^3 L^2$. Indeed, it can

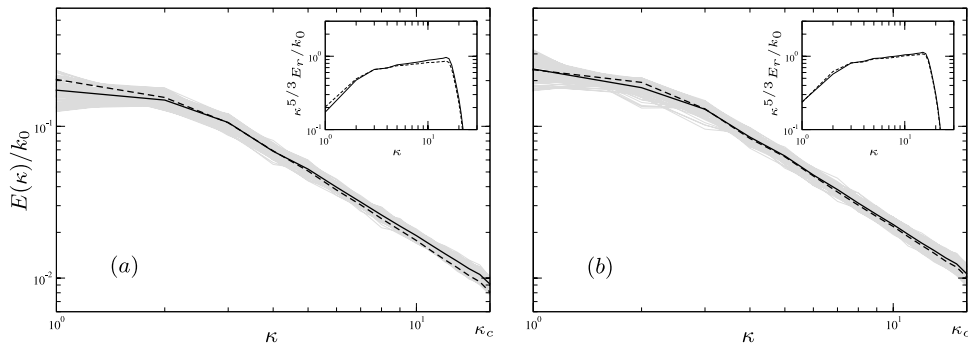


FIG. 3. Evolution of the kinetic energy spectrum in the permanent state. Forcing of a HIT towards its initial energy level k_0 for (a) $\tau_r^* = 0.1$, (b) $\tau_r^* = 0.01$. Grey lines: 100 spectra uniformly distributed in the $3 < t^* \leq 10$ time interval. Black lines: time-averaged spectrum (multiplied by $\kappa^{5/3}$ in the inset); black solid line: ALF; dashed lines: ILF.

TABLE I. Mean resolved kinetic energy, integral time scale T , and length scale L_{\parallel} in Eq. (53) (time averaging over the time interval $3 < t^* \leq 40$).

τ_r^*	$\langle k_r \rangle / k_0$		T^*		L_{\parallel}^*	
	ALF	ILF	ALF	ILF	ALF	ILF
0.01	0.970	0.972	0.217	0.230	0.174	0.185
0.05	0.874	0.883	0.232	0.253	0.177	0.194
0.1	0.787	0.797	0.246	0.262	0.178	0.191

be observed in Fig. 2 that the integral length scale of the initial field is not preserved by the forcing method but grows up to the box size, as already observed by Rosales and Meneveau.²⁰ Using Eq. (47), this leads to

$$\frac{u_{\text{rms}}'^3}{\varepsilon} \sim L. \quad (54)$$

Table I shows that L_{\parallel} is virtually unaffected by the particular choice of τ_r , thus confirming that the forcing method does not influence the integral length scale. The proportionality constant L_{\parallel}/L reported by Rosales and Meneveau²⁰ is 0.19, in close agreement with the present LES results.

For cases more general than homogeneous turbulence, it is desirable to prescribe the length scale of the synthetic turbulence, independently of the size of the domain. This can be done using a slight modification of the forcing scheme, which aims at forcing only the scales smaller than a length scale L_f . The forcing is therefore rewritten as

$$f_i = A_{ij}(\tilde{u}_j - \widehat{\tilde{u}}_j) + B_i, \quad (55)$$

where $\widehat{\tilde{u}}_j$ is simply determined by explicitly filtering the resolved velocity \tilde{u}_i . A second order differential elliptic filter is chosen (e.g., Germano,²⁸ Bose *et al.*,²⁹) because of its easy implementation in any solver,

$$\widehat{\tilde{u}}_i - \nabla \cdot (L_f^2 \nabla \tilde{u}_i) = \tilde{u}_i, \quad (56)$$

where L_f is the filter width.

Consequently, the mean part of the force, which contributes to the mean motion, reads

$$\langle f_i \rangle = A_{ij}(\langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle - \langle \widehat{\tilde{u}}_j \rangle) + B_i, \quad (57)$$

and the production term that arises in the resolved stress equation is

$$P_{ij}^f = A_{ik}(\langle u'_k u'_j \rangle - \langle u''_k u'_j \rangle) + A_{jk}(\langle u'_k u'_i \rangle - \langle u''_k u'_i \rangle), \quad (58)$$

where $\langle u'_k u'_j \rangle$ is the cross-correlation between the fluctuating part of the resolved velocity $u'_i = \tilde{u}_i - \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle$ and the fluctuating part of the filtered resolved velocity $u''_i = \widehat{\tilde{u}}_i - \langle \widehat{\tilde{u}}_i \rangle$.

As described in Sec. II C, the coefficients A_{ij} are computed at each point using constraint (31), and constraint (30) provides the coefficients B_i . The force f_i then becomes

$$f_i = A_{ij} \left((\tilde{u}_j - \widehat{\tilde{u}}_j) - (\langle \tilde{u}_j \rangle - \langle \widehat{\tilde{u}}_j \rangle) \right) + \frac{1}{\tau_v} \left(\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger - \langle \widehat{\tilde{u}}_i \rangle \right). \quad (59)$$

To characterize the integral length scale L_{\parallel} as a function of L_f , two series of tests have been carried out, using two different boxes of widths $L = 2\pi$ and $L = 4\pi$, with the same grid step $\Delta x = 2\pi/64$. For each grid, eight simulations are carried out with different L_f varying between $L_f = 0.6$ and $L_f = 2.5$. For all simulations, the forcing time scales are $\tau_v^* = \tau_r^* = 0.1$ and the target resolved stresses are the same as in Sec. III A.

Long-time averaged spectra are shown in Fig. 4. It is clearly seen that the spectra are shifted toward the high wavenumbers when L_f is decreased. It is also noticeable that the level of the spectra, and hence the resolved kinetic energy k_r , also decreases with L_f . The main conclusion that can be

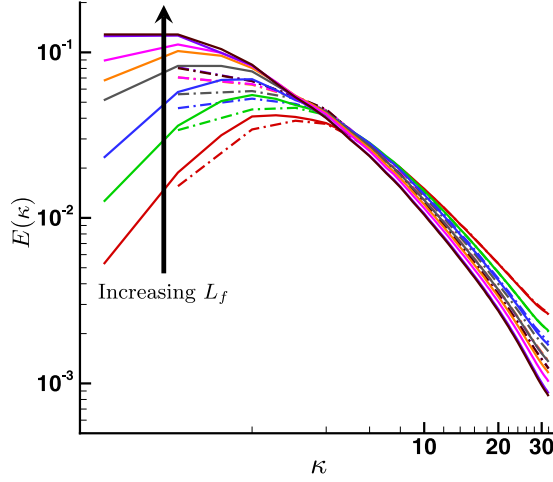


FIG. 4. Averaged spectra of the velocity field achieved using different values of L_f (0.6; 0.8; 1; 1.3; 1.6; 1.9; 2.2; 2.5). Solid lines: $L = 4\pi$; dashed lines: $L = 2\pi$.

drawn from this figure is that, when L_f is sufficiently small compared to the size of the box L , the spectra obtained in the two boxes, $L = 2\pi$ and $L = 4\pi$, are very similar, which shows that the modified forcing is able to impose the integral length scale of the generated turbulence via the filtering length scale L_f , independently of the size of the box L .

It is also observed that, for large L_f , the sequence of spectra obtained in the small box approaches a limit spectrum, because the size of the box imposes an upper constraint to the integral length scale L_{\parallel} . This length scale, computed from Eq. (53), using Eq. (49) to evaluate the dissipation, is plotted in Figure 5(a). In the small box, it is confirmed that L_{\parallel} remains bounded for large L_f . Since the effect of the filter vanishes when L_f goes to infinity, L_{\parallel} is asymptotic to the horizontal line $0.19L$ that corresponds to the value obtained without filtering in Sec. III A.

In the case of the large box ($L = 4\pi$), the integral scale is approximately proportional to L_f ,

$$L_{\parallel} \simeq 0.7L_f. \quad (60)$$

Using this relation, Eq. (49) becomes

$$\frac{1}{\tau_r}(k_r^{\dagger} - k_r) = \varepsilon = \frac{u_{\text{rms}}^3}{L_{\parallel}} = \frac{k_r^{\frac{3}{2}}}{(\frac{3}{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}L_{\parallel}} \simeq \frac{k_r^{\frac{3}{2}}}{1.3L_f}, \quad (61)$$

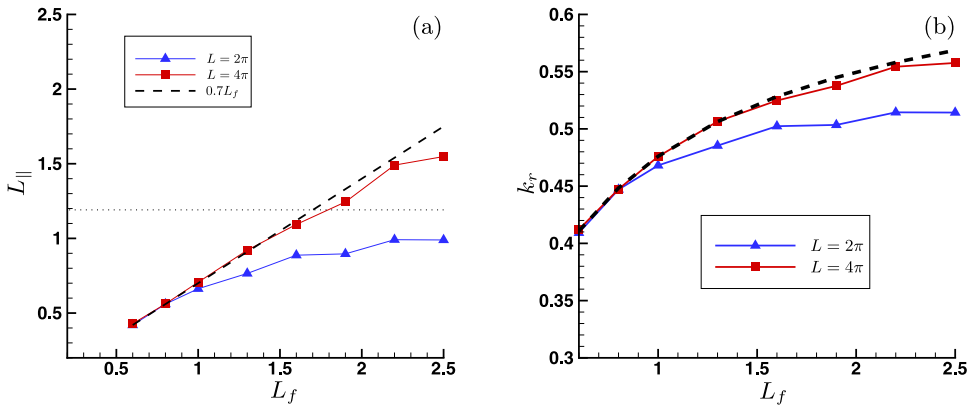


FIG. 5. (a) Integral length scale L_{\parallel} as a function of the filtering length scale L_f for two different sizes L of the box. The dashed line represents the equation $L_{\parallel} = 0.7L_f$. The dotted line is the asymptote $0.19L$ for $L = 2\pi$ achieved when $L_f \rightarrow \infty$ (no filtering). (b) Turbulent kinetic energy as a function of L_f for two different sizes L of the box. The dashed line represents the solution of Eq. (61).

such that k_r can be computed from the equation

$$k_r \left(1 + \frac{\tau_r}{1.3L_f} k_r^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) = k_r^\dagger. \quad (62)$$

It is shown in Figure 5(b) that the solution of this equation is in good agreement with the values obtained in the large box, as long as L_f remains sufficiently small compared to L .

The modified forcing methods (55) and (56) thus make the control of the integral length scale possible. This method is applied in the case of a turbulent channel flow in Sec. IV.

C. Homogeneous anisotropic case

The flexibility and effectiveness of the ALF is now demonstrated in anisotropic cases. The configuration is the same as in Sec. III A, except for the target stresses that are now anisotropic. Introducing the anisotropy tensor

$$b_{ij} = \frac{\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle}{2k} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \quad (63)$$

and its second and third invariants

$$II = -\frac{1}{2} b_{ij} b_{ij}, \quad III = \frac{1}{3} b_{ij} b_{jk} b_{ki}, \quad (64)$$

the anisotropies considered in this section are plotted on the invariant $(III, -II)$ map (the so-called Lumley triangle^{30,31}) in Fig. 6. For the present test, the arbitrary target stresses successively imposed to the ALF are the following:

- (i) a three-component anisotropic turbulence (the point denoted by “O” in Fig. 6)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= \frac{1}{3} k_0, & \langle v'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= \frac{2}{3} k_0, & \langle w'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= k_0, \\ \langle u'v' \rangle^\dagger &= \langle u'w' \rangle^\dagger = \langle v'w' \rangle^\dagger &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

- (ii) a nearly two-component axisymmetric turbulence (close to the “2C-axi” corner of the triangle)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= \langle v'^2 \rangle^\dagger = 0.99 k_0, & \langle w'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= 0.02 k_0, \\ \langle u'v' \rangle^\dagger &= \langle u'w' \rangle^\dagger = \langle v'w' \rangle^\dagger &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (66)$$

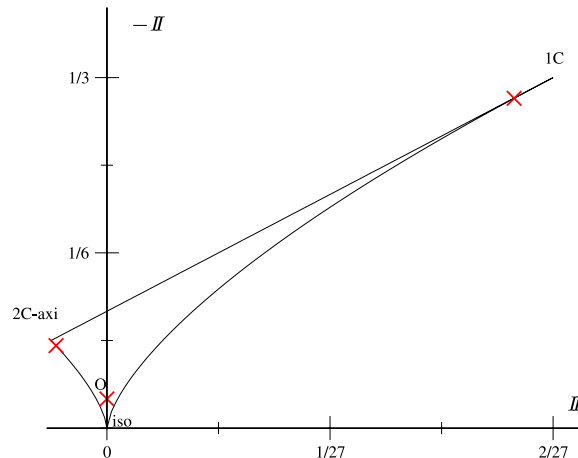


FIG. 6. Lumley triangle in the $(III, -II)$ invariant plane. The red crosses indicate the target anisotropies imposed to the ALF, Eqs. (65)–(67).

(iii) a nearly one-component axisymmetric turbulence (close to the “1C” corner of the triangle)

$$\begin{aligned}\langle u'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= 1.96k_0, & \langle v'^2 \rangle^\dagger &= \langle w'^2 \rangle^\dagger = 0.02k_0, \\ \langle u'v' \rangle^\dagger &= \langle u'w' \rangle^\dagger &= \langle v'w' \rangle^\dagger &= 0.\end{aligned}\quad (67)$$

It is worth noting that, as demonstrated in Appendix A, the ALF is frame invariant. Therefore, it is sufficient to show that the considered anisotropies can be imposed in the coordinate frame aligned with the principal directions of Reynolds tensor, as in Eqs. (65)–(67).

Considering the three-component state of Eq. (65), Fig. 7(a) shows that after a short decreasing phase, the resolved turbulent kinetic energy k_r fluctuates around a constant value which is closer to the target energy k_0 when the forcing parameter τ_r is small. As regards the anisotropy, Fig. 7(b) indicates, in particular for $\tau^* = 0.05$, that the gaps between the observed and the target Reynolds stresses are not the same for the different components. Actually, it can be seen in Fig. 7(c) that the absolute value of the components of the anisotropy is slightly underestimated,

$$|\langle b_{ij} \rangle_t| = (1 - \epsilon(\tau_r))|b_{ij}^\dagger|, \quad (68)$$

where ϵ is an error function. This relationship implies that the long-time averaged second invariant $\langle -II \rangle_t$ is lower than its target value $-II^\dagger$, while the long-time averaged third invariant $\langle III \rangle_t$ is zero, as shown in Fig. 7(d).

Figures 8 and 9 present the results obtained in the nearly two-component (Eq. (66)) and one-component (Eq. (67)) cases, respectively. Figures 8(a) and 9(a) show that, similar to the previous case, the Reynolds stresses fluctuate around constant values, and Figs. 8(b) and 9(b) confirm that the target anisotropy is asymptotically reached. In comparison with previous cases, the transient phase, before the permanent state is reached, is longer, and in the permanent state, the amplitude of the fluctuations around the equilibrium values is smaller. Figs. 8(c) and 9(c) illustrate the typical flow structures obtained in these cases of nearly two-component and one-component axisymmetric forcings.

A last case is now considered to demonstrate the effectiveness of the ALF: starting from an isotropic state, the nearly two-component and one-component axisymmetric anisotropic states (Eqs. (66) and (67)) are successively enforced and, eventually, the flow is forced back to isotropy (this cyclic case can be seen as a tour of the Lumley triangle). To that end, the target stresses of the ALF are abruptly switched during the computation. It is visible in Fig. 10(a) that the flow rapidly adjusts to the desired anisotropic state. Moreover, it can be seen in the $(III, -II)$ map (Fig. 10(b)) that the turbulent anisotropy passes along the boundaries of the Lumley triangle, without introducing artificial three-component states during the transient. This case also shows the robustness of the ALF to quickly adapt to target statistics.

IV. APPLICATION TO TURBULENT CHANNEL FLOWS

Section III has demonstrated that the ALF method can successfully impose target statistics in the case of homogeneous turbulence. The purpose of the present section is to extend the method to spatially developing flows, for which the turbulent channel flow is prototypical. Before proceeding to the application of the method to hybrid RANS/LES computations, a parametric study is carried out in LES, using the Smagorinsky model, in order to identify the influence of the different parameters on the flow development toward the target solution.

A. Parametric study

The case of spatially developing turbulent channel flow at $Re_b = U_b h / \nu = 7000$, is now considered, where h is the half-width of the channel and U_b is the bulk velocity. The target statistics of the ALF are taken from a precursor periodic simulation with the same grid spacing. The imposed inlet velocity is the target mean velocity $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger$, without superimposed fluctuations. The whole flow domain is forced with the ALF, in order to investigate the spatial development of the flow.

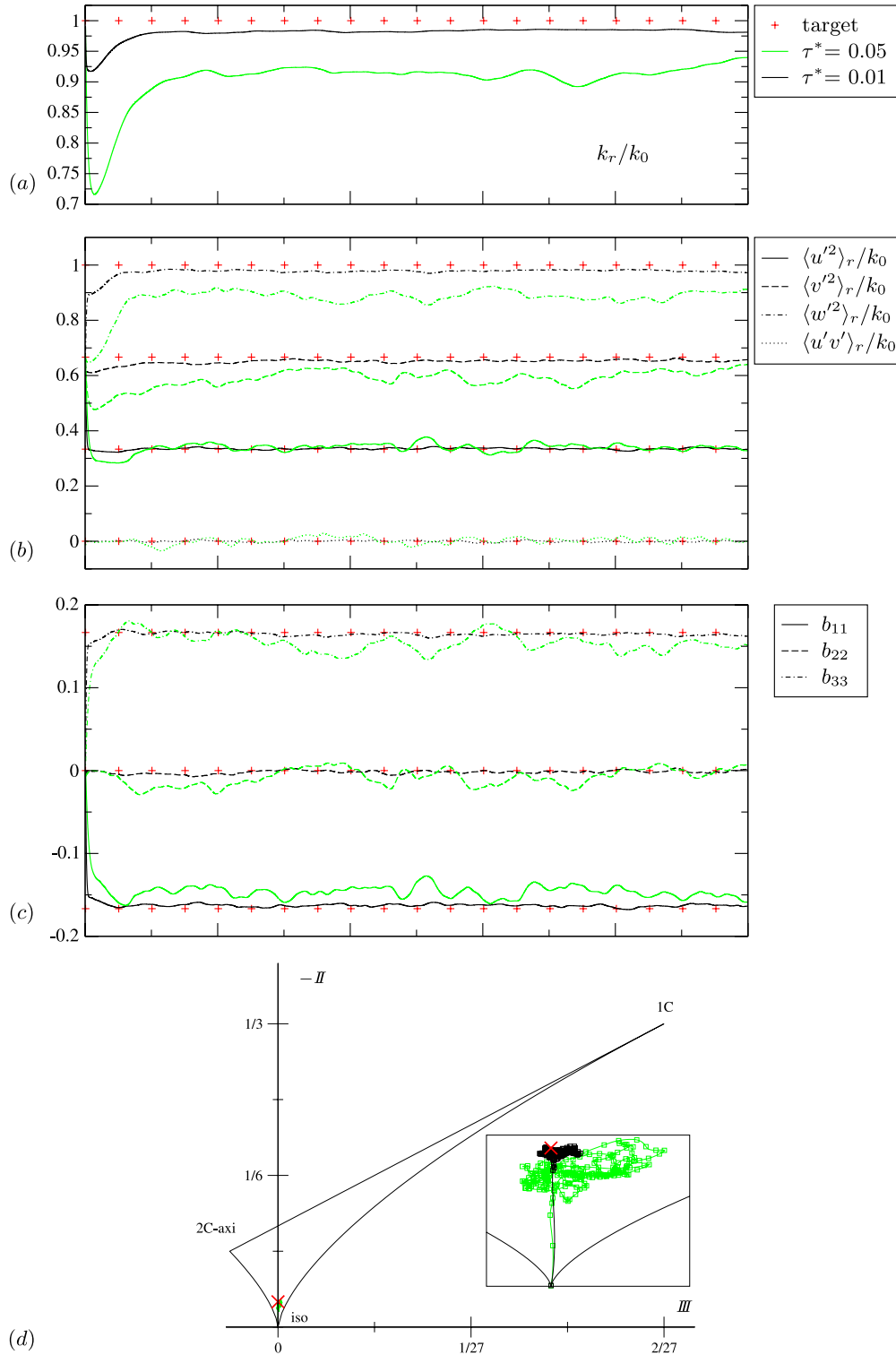


FIG. 7. Forcing of an initially isotropic turbulence toward the three-component anisotropic state of Eq. (65). Time evolution (a) of the turbulent kinetic energy, (b) of the Reynolds stress tensor, (c) of the anisotropy tensor, and (d) trajectory of the anisotropy in the $(III, -II)$ invariant map (the inset is an enlargement in which the lines are marked every $\delta t^* = 0.05$). Red +, red x: target values; green solid line: forced LES, $\tau_r^* = 0.05$; black solid line: forced LES, $\tau_r^* = 0.01$.

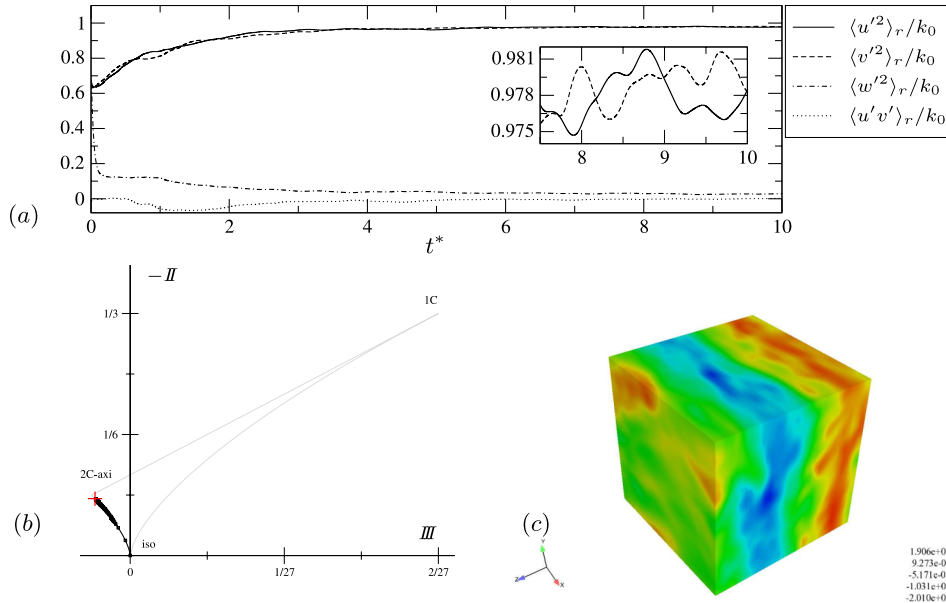


FIG. 8. Forcing of an initially isotropic turbulence toward the nearly two-component state of Eq. (66), $\tau_r^* = 0.05$. (a) Evolution of the Reynolds stresses (the inset is a zoom); (b) trajectory of the anisotropy in the $(III, -II)$ invariant map (lines are marked every $\delta t^* = 0.05$ time lapses; red +: target anisotropy); (c) visualization of the velocity $u'/\sqrt{k_0}$ at $t^* = 10$.

For the reference periodic simulation, the domain is limited to $3\pi h \times 2h \times \pi h$ and discretized with a $73 \times 86 \times 81$ cells, which corresponds to cells of size $x^+ = 50$, $z^+ = 15$, $y_{\min}^+ = 2.1$, and $y_{\max}^+ = 12$ in wall units.

For the spatially developing cases, a number of computations are carried out, in order to investigate the influence of the parameters involved in the ALF. The characteristics of the computations are summarized in Table II. Beside the relaxation time scales τ_v and τ_r , the influence of imposing a length scale L_f via a differential filter and of the choice of the approximate averaging operator is also discussed.

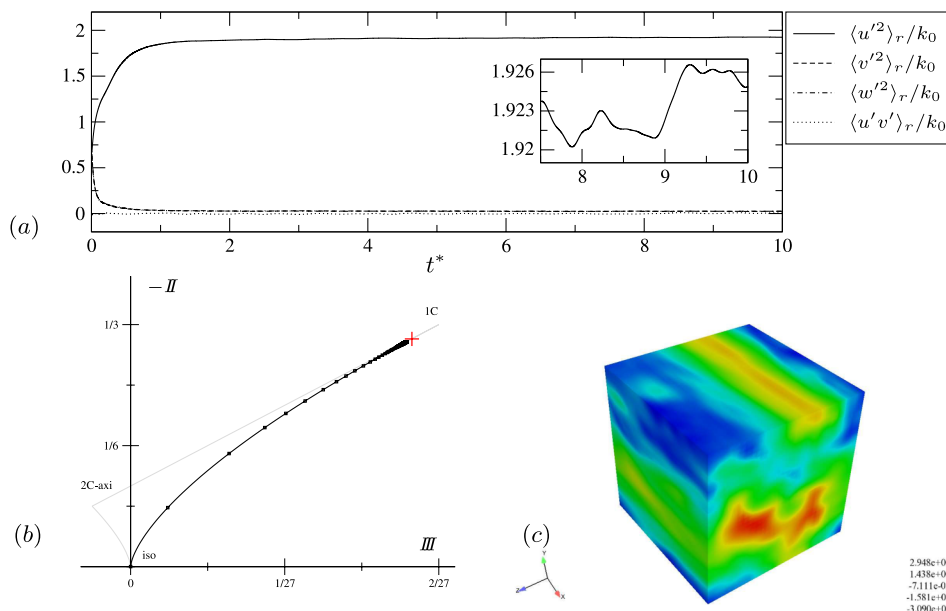
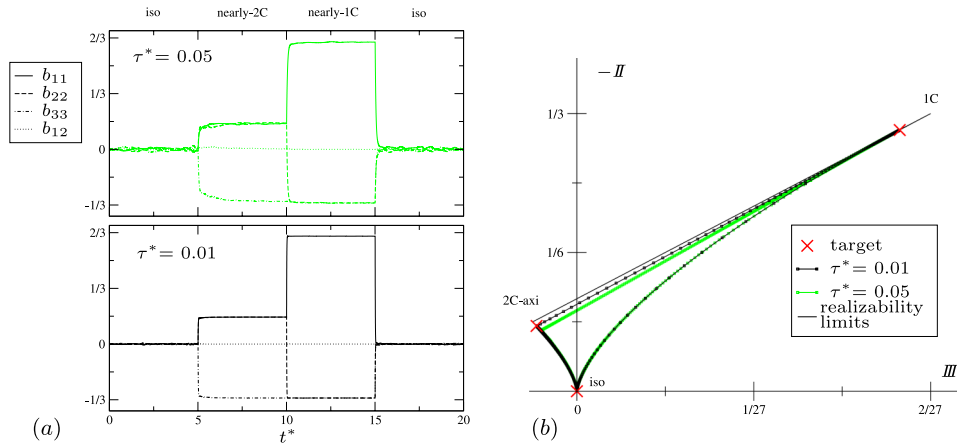


FIG. 9. Forcing of an initially isotropic turbulence toward the nearly one-component state of Eq. (67), $\tau_r^* = 0.05$. Legend: see Fig. 8.

FIG. 10. (a) Time evolution of the anisotropy and (b) trajectory in the $(III, -II)$ invariant map.

For these computations, the size of the domain is $10\pi h \times 2h \times \pi h$ and spatial discretization uses the same grid spacing as for the reference periodic simulation. The forcing is applied starting from the first time step. The resolved flow statistics, involved in the ALF formulation, are evaluated using exponential time filter (9). For the sake of generality, the less favorable situation is considered, i.e., a flow without spatial homogeneous direction. Therefore, most of the computations do not exploit the homogeneity of the flow in the spanwise direction, except for specific tests. Since differential filtering requires initial conditions for the filtered moments, the target values are used. In contrast to the approximate moments used in the ALF, the statistics presented in the figure below are obtained by time averaging from $t = 200h/U_b$ to $600h/U_b$ and spatial averaging in the homogeneous z direction.

1. Influence of an imposed length scale L_f

In such a confined flow, it is expected that imposing a length scale L_f through a differential filter, as presented in Sec. III B, is unnecessary, since the length scale is naturally imposed by the distance to the wall. In order to investigate the validity of this assumption, tests are carried out to compare computations using the ALF with and without the differential filter (cases 1a–d), using the parameters $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$.

For the forcing with filtering, the relevant width of the filter is evaluated from the reference periodic simulation: the turbulent kinetic energy budget is computed to estimate the dissipation rate ε and a reference length scale is evaluated as

$$L_{\text{ref}}(y) = \frac{k_r^{3/2}}{\varepsilon}. \quad (69)$$

Since computations of homogeneous turbulence in Sec. III B have shown that the integral length scale satisfies the relation $L_{\parallel} = 0.7L_f$, or equivalently $k_r^{3/2}/\varepsilon = 1.3L_f$, the filter width is chosen as $L_f(y) = C L_{\text{ref}}(y)/1.3$. Different values of the coefficient C are applied in order to investigate the

TABLE II. Characteristics of computations using the ALF.

Case	τ_v	τ_r	Approximate averaging $\langle \cdot \rangle$	Imposed L_f
1a–d	$0.5h/U_b$	$0.5h/U_b$	Gaussian filtering, $T = 100 + \langle \cdot \rangle_z$	Yes
2	$0.5h/U_b$	$0.5h/U_b$	Gaussian filtering, $T = 100$	No
3	$0.1h/U_b$	$0.1h/U_b$	Gaussian filtering, $T = 100$	No
4	$5h/U_b$	$0.1h/U_b$	Gaussian filtering, $T = 100$	No
5	$5h/U_b$	$0.01k/\varepsilon$	Gaussian filtering, $T = 100$	No
6a	$5h/U_b$	$0.01k/\varepsilon$	Exponential filtering, $T = 10$	No
6b	$5h/U_b$	$0.01k/\varepsilon$	Exponential filtering, $T = 100 + \langle \cdot \rangle_z$	No

influence of the length scale L_f on the computed flow: $C = \infty$ (no filtering, case 1a), $C = 1$ (case 1b), $C = 0.5$ (case 1c), and $C = 2$ (case 1d). It is worth mentioning that, in order to avoid numerical difficulties, the forcing term must be damped when L_f is smaller than the cell size, which is in the case in a small region close to the wall.

For the sake of brevity, only profiles of the shear stress and turbulent kinetic energy at $x/h = 5$ are shown in Figure 11. It is seen that all the profiles are virtually superimposed. The close examination of the statistical properties of the flow, such as spectra and two-point correlations (not shown here), has not revealed significant differences between the results of the different tests. Consequently, all the simulations presented in the rest of the article are carried out without filtering. It is worth mentioning that the relatively inaccurate prediction of the shear stress profile is due to the use of a large relaxation time τ_r , as shown in Sec. IV A 2.

2. Influence of the relaxation time scales τ_v and τ_r

In cases 2 and 3 (see Table II), the relaxation parameters for the mean velocity τ_v and the resolved Reynolds stresses τ_r are equal. Figure 12 presents the mean velocity, the turbulent kinetic energy, and the shear stress profiles at three locations downstream of the inlet: $x/h = 2, 5, 10$. It is seen that, with the selected τ_v and τ_r values, the ALF rapidly generates turbulent stresses downstream of the inlet. It can be seen that the spatial evolution of the statistics is satisfactory: for the lower value of the relaxation parameters $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$, a short distance of $2h$ is sufficient for the statistics to almost exactly adjust to their value corresponding to the fully developed state. For $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$, the development of the turbulent stresses is slower but, at $x/h = 10$, the flow reaches the target statistics. Since the ALF is fully anisotropic, it is able to impose the anisotropy of the normal stresses $\langle u_i^2 \rangle^\dagger$, as shown in Fig. 13.

In Fig. 14, the turbulent structures of the forced LES are shown in horizontal planes, at different distances from the wall. The turbulent structures of the resolved flow field are compared with those in the periodic reference case, the statistics of which are used as target moments. Coherent structures are rapidly generated downstream of the inlet with a spatial development of the turbulent structures more satisfactory for $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$ than for $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$. In particular, elongated near-wall structures do not appear directly downstream of the inlet for the latter case. Further from the walls and close to the inlet, it is observed that the structures generated are smaller than those of the fully developed flow. This phenomenon is limited, albeit still visible, for $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$. Furthermore, this phenomenon is observed on a short distance and the turbulent structures of the forced LES rapidly evolve toward an aspect very similar to that of the periodic LES.

The spectral content of the forced LES is shown in Fig. 15. Temporal Fourier transforms are obtained from a FFT algorithm, using samples of size $N = 2^{13}$ during a time period of $409.6h/U_b$. The temporal spectra of the velocity of the forced LES show a good agreement with those of the periodic simulation without forcing. An influence of τ_v on the low frequency fluctuations can be observed,

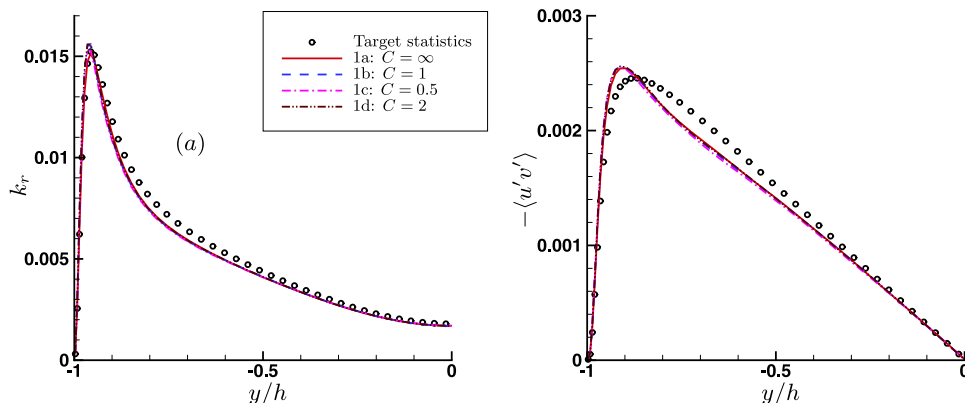


FIG. 11. (a) Resolved turbulent kinetic energy and (b) shear stress at $x/h = 5$ obtained using different spatial filtering. $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$.

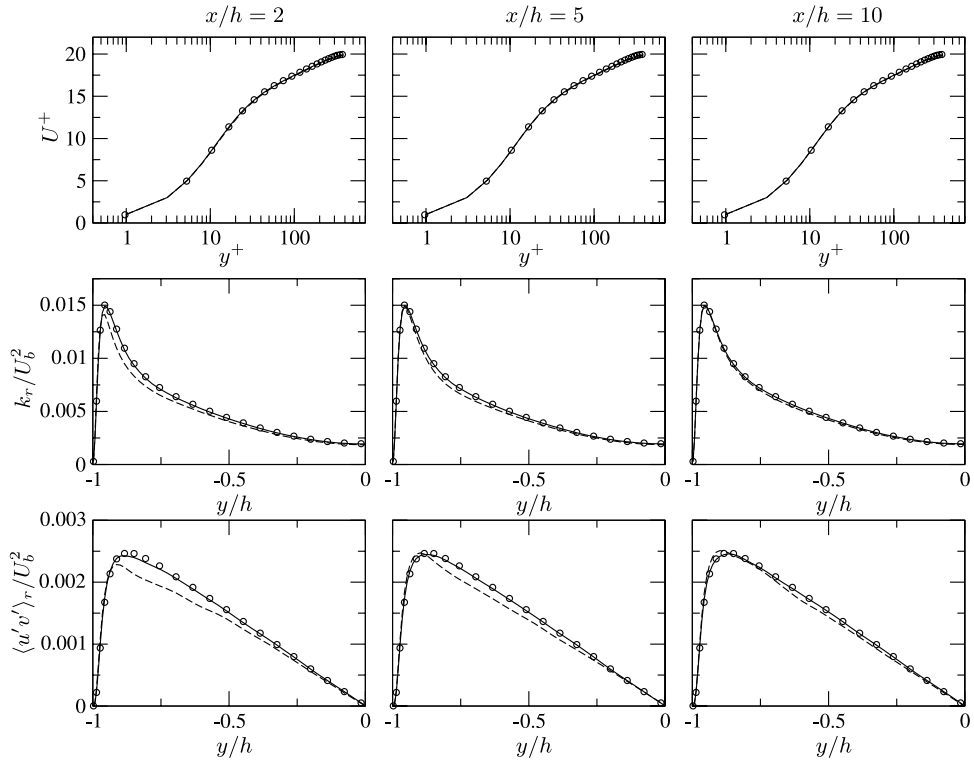


FIG. 12. Mean velocity, resolved turbulent kinetic energy, and turbulent shear stress at $x/h = 2, 5, 10$. \circ : target statistics; dashed lines: forced LES, $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$ (case 2); black solid line: forced LES, $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$ (case 3).

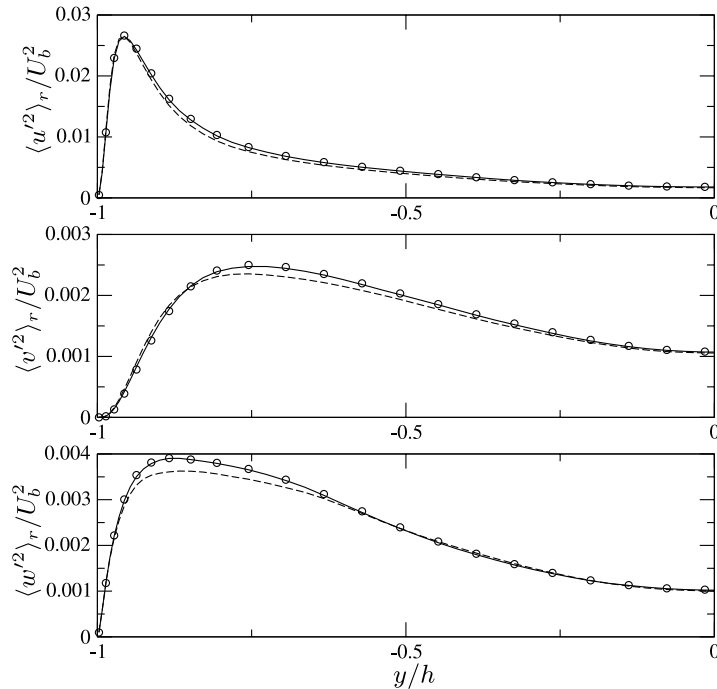


FIG. 13. Normal turbulent stresses at $x/h = 5$. \circ : target statistics; dashed lines: forced LES, $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$ (case 2); black solid line: $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$ (case 3).

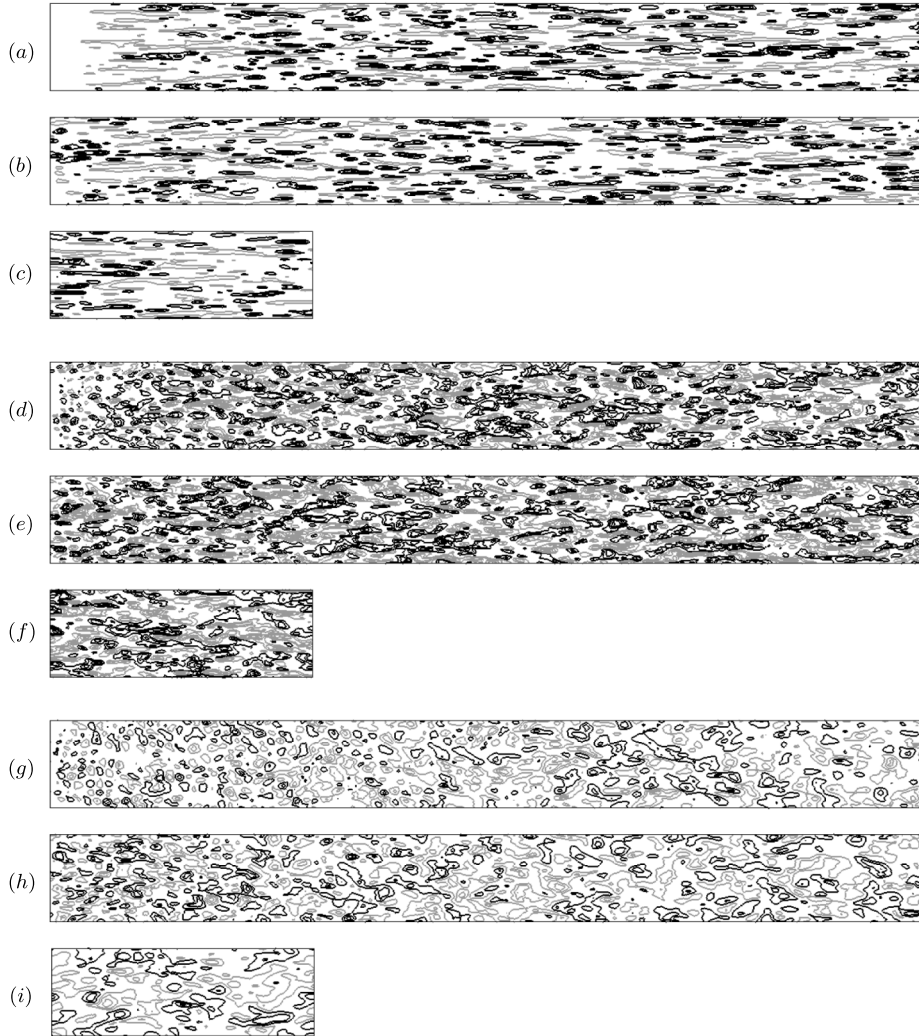


FIG. 14. Horizontal slices showing fluctuating streamwise velocity at ((a)–(c)) $y/h = -0.99$; ((d)–(f)) $y/h = -0.8$; ((g)–(i)) $y/h = 0$. ((a), (d), (g)): forced LES, $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.5h/U_b$ (case 2); ((b), (e), (h)): forced LES, $\tau_v = \tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$ (case 3); ((c), (f), (i)): periodic LES. The contours correspond to $\pm 0.06, 0.12, 0.18, 0.24, 0.3$ for ((a)–(f)) graphs and $\pm 0.03, 0.0725, 0.115, 0.1575, 0.2$ for ((g)–(i)) graphs, with black contours for positive values and gray contours for negative values.

and a better reproduction is obtained by increasing this relaxation parameter, in comparison with τ_r (case 4). The reason for this influence lies in the fact that the resolved mean velocity is evaluated during the computation using a Gaussian temporal filter, with a large but finite filter width. Therefore, even in permanent state, the resolved mean velocity $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle$ in Eq. (37) is not constant but oscillates at low frequency, such that the mean component B_i of the forcing term oscillates as well, with an amplitude depending on the relaxation time τ_v . However, Fig. 15 shows that the agreement of the long-time averaged velocity with the target profile $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger$ is still very satisfactory when the τ_v parameter is increased to $\tau_v = 5h/U_b$.

Since τ_r imposes the time scale of the ALF turbulent production, the question arises of making this parameter variable within the domain, as a function of the integral time scale, or eddy turnover time, k/ε ,

$$\tau_r = C_r \frac{k^\dagger}{\varepsilon^\dagger}. \quad (70)$$

In the RANS/LES framework, this time scale can be computed from the RANS solution. Figure 16 shows an *a priori* test performed in order to calibrate the C_r constant from the DNS data of Moser

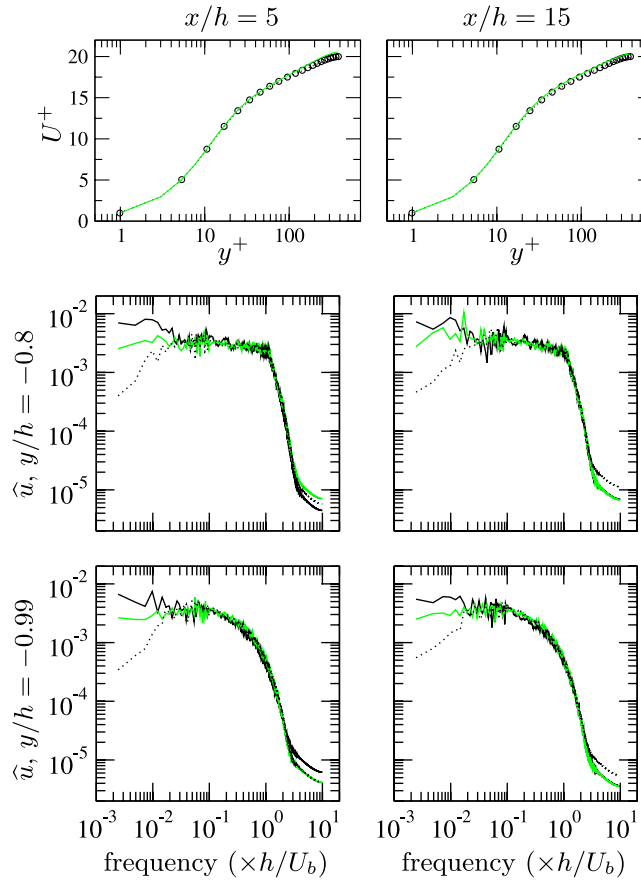


FIG. 15. Mean velocity (top) and temporal Fourier transform of streamwise velocity, at $y/h = -0.8$ (middle) and $y/h = -0.99$ (bottom). Profiles at $x/h = 5$ (left) and $x/h = 15$ (right). \circ , black solid line: periodic LES; dotted lines: forced LES, $\tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$ and $\tau_v = 0.1h/U_b$ (case 3); green solid line: forced LES, $\tau_r = 0.1h/U_b$ and $\tau_v = 5h/U_b$ (case 4).

*et al.*³² It can be seen that, in order to obtain a spatially variable τ_r of the same order of magnitude than the constant value $0.1h/U_b$ that was successfully applied above, the coefficient C_r must be as small as $C_r = 0.01$. Taking into account the additional constraint that τ_r must remain larger than the time step Δt , the proposed formulation for τ_r is

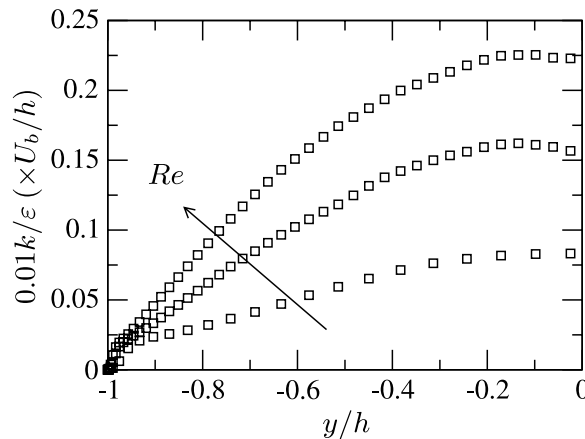


FIG. 16. Integral time scale (multiplied by $C_r = 0.01$) in a channel flow at $Re_\tau = 180, 395, 590$. DNS data of Moser *et al.*³²

$$\tau_r = \max \left\{ 2\Delta t, 0.01 \frac{k^\dagger}{\varepsilon^\dagger} \right\}. \quad (71)$$

The results of the application of this spatially variable formulation for τ_r , associated with $\tau_v = 5h/U_b$, are shown in Fig. 17 (case 5). In order to circumvent the issue of the evaluation of the total turbulent energy k^\dagger and the dissipation rate ε^\dagger from resolved variables of the periodic LES, and anticipating the fact that, for applications in the hybrid RANS/LES context, these quantities will be provided by the RANS computation, Eq. (71) is simply computed here from the DNS data of Moser *et al.*³² at $Re_b = 6881 \approx 7000$. It can be seen in Fig. 17 that the forcing is satisfactory with this formulation of τ_r , from both the statistical and the spectral point of view. Actually, the local nature of τ_r has a minor influence in this case and the results obtained are very similar to those of case 4. It is however believed that the formulation in Eq. (71) is more general and, in particular, able to adjust the intensity of the forcing to the turbulence intensity of the flow, as computed by the RANS method. Consequently, this variable formulation is applied in the hybrid RANS/LES computations of Sec. IV B.

3. Influence of the explicit averaging operator

Through Eqs. (30) and (31), the ALF can be seen as a restoring force tending to drive the mean velocity and the resolved stresses toward target values. The method is therefore dependent on the approximation used to evaluate the first and second moments of the LES during the computation (as mentioned at the beginning of the present section, the computations presented above employed an exponential time filtering \mathcal{G}_T , Eq. (9), with the temporal filter width $T = 100h/U_b$). In particular, it was shown in Sec. IV A 2 that, since the approximate mean velocity $\mathcal{G}_T(\bar{u}_i)$ is subject to low-frequency oscillations, of the order of magnitude of T , the mean force $\langle f_i \rangle$ does not only influence the mean velocity but also the low-frequency turbulent fluctuations.

In Fig. 18, in order to investigate the effect of the approximate statistical averaging operator, an exponential filtering of reduced size $T = 10h/U_b$ (case 6a) and an exponential filtering of size $T = 100h/U_b$ associated with spatial averaging in the homogeneous direction z (case 6b) are considered. The Fourier transforms are plotted close to the channel outlet in order to guarantee that the forced LES is fully developed. It is observed that, with $T = 10h/U_b$, the low frequency components of the velocity are significantly damped in the core of the flow ($y/h = 0$). In the vicinity of the wall ($y/h = -0.99$), the velocity spectrum is also modified, with an overestimation at high frequencies.

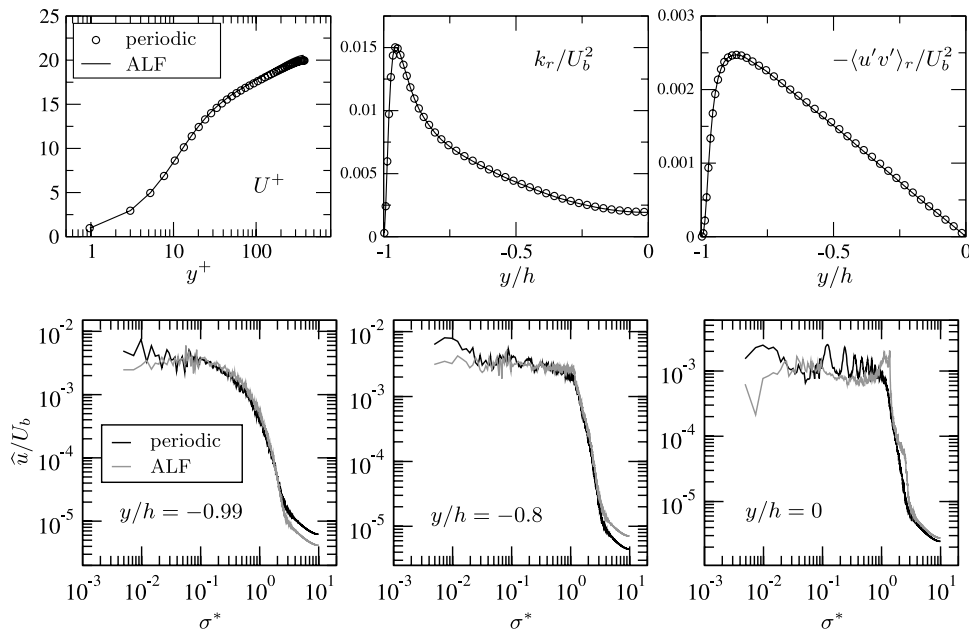


FIG. 17. Forced LES $\tau_v = 5h/U_b$ and $\tau_r = 0.01k/\varepsilon$ (case 5). Top: Mean velocity, turbulent energy, and turbulent shear stress. Bottom: Fourier transform of streamwise velocity for several distances to the wall.

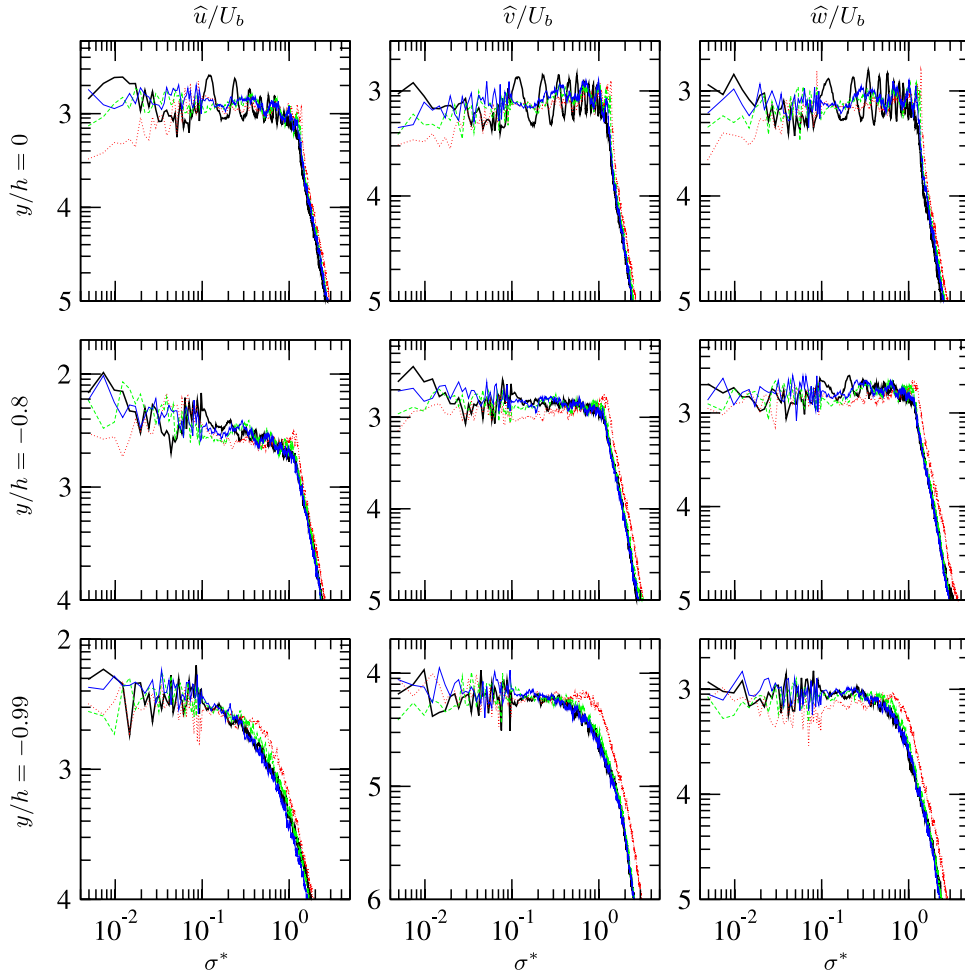


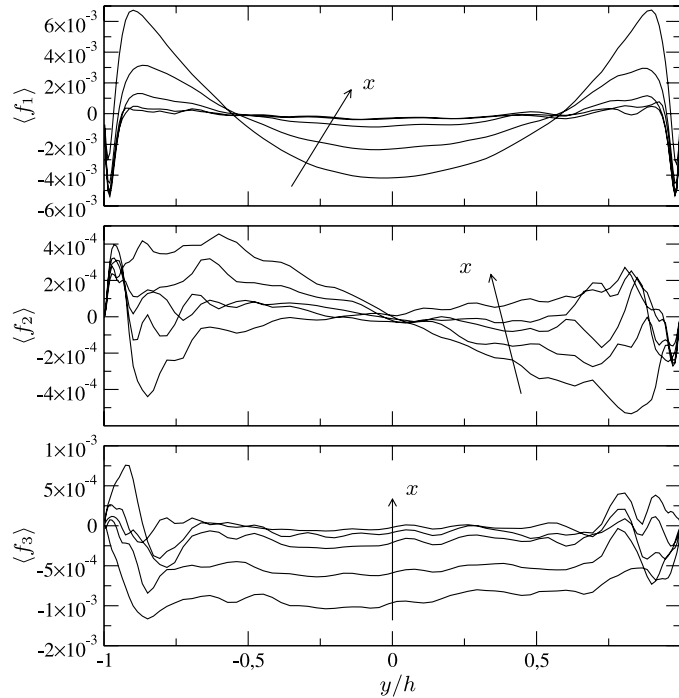
FIG. 18. Fourier transform of the three velocity components at $x/h = 30$ and at several distances to the wall ($y/h = 0, -0.8, -0.99$). Influence of the explicit averaging operator. Red dots: exponential filtering of size $T = 10h/U_b$ (case 6a); green dashes: exponential filtering of size $T = 100h/U_b$ (case 5); blue solid line: exponential filtering of size $T = 100h/U_b$ and spatial averaging in the z direction; thick black solid line: periodic LES.

In contrast, the more accurate approximation of the statistical operator applied for case 6b provides velocity spectra almost identical to those of the fully developed, unforced LES. However, since averaging in homogeneous directions is not possible in more complex geometries, for the sake of generality, the exponential filter with $T = 100h/U_b$ is considered a good compromise and is adopted for the hybrid RANS/LES computations of Sec. IV B.

To conclude the parametric study of the present section, the components of the mean force and the A_{ij} tensor are plotted in Figs. 19 and 20, respectively, for the case 5 of Table II. It is observed that, as the mean velocity approaches the target value, the mean force rapidly decreases downstream of the inlet, but does not vanish, in particular close to the walls. As regards the A_{ij} tensor, Fig. 20 reveals that the dominant components are A_{11} and A_{22} , which, in particular, contribute to the shear stress budget, via the term $(A_{11} + A_{22})\langle u'v' \rangle$. Similar to the mean force, A_{11} and A_{22} decrease in the streamwise direction of the channel but do not go to zero.

B. Application to synthetic turbulence generation in zonal RANS/LES modeling

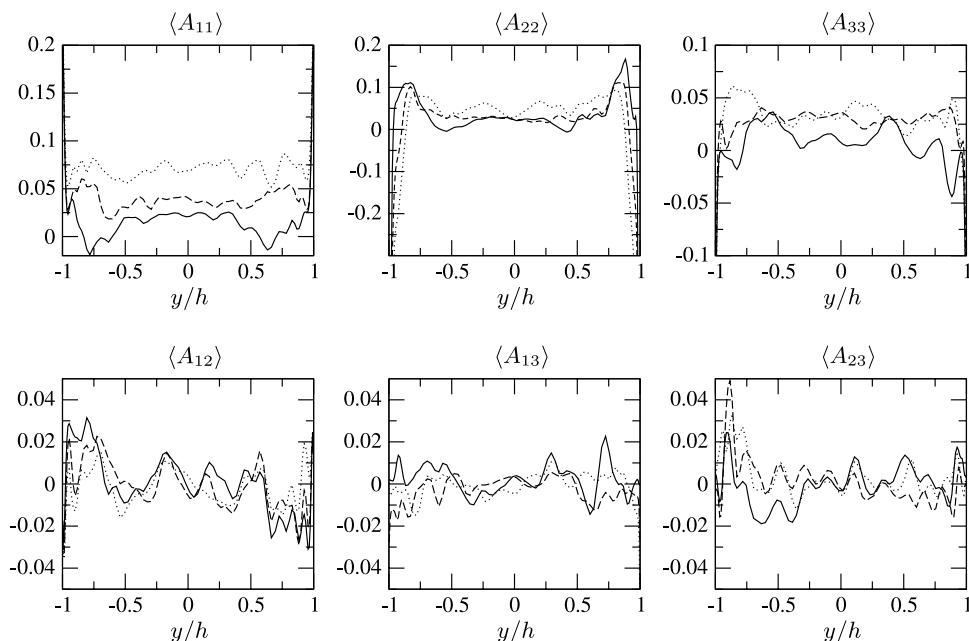
Using the insight gained in Sec. IV A into the influence of the different ingredients of the ALF on the spatial development of the resolved fluctuations, the method is now applied to the zonal hybrid RANS/LES coupling. For the purpose of evaluating the performance of the ALF, results are compared

FIG. 19. Mean ALF components at $x/h = 2, 5, 10, 15, 30$ (case 5).

to a well established method of generation of turbulent fluctuations at the inlet of the LES domain, the synthetic eddy method (SEM).

1. Formulation of the coupling

Channel flow RANS and LES solutions are computed in separate domains. The LES domain is located downstream of the RANS domain, with an overlap region. Since, in the present case, the

FIG. 20. Mean A_{ij} components for case 5 at $x/h = 5$ (dotted lines), 15 (dashed lines), and 30 (black solid line).

LES computation does not influence the RANS computation (one-way coupling), periodic boundary conditions are used in RANS, in order to generate a fully developed solution. In Eqs. (35) and (37) that determine the A_{ij} and B_i coefficients of the ALF, the target mean velocity and resolved Reynolds stresses are

$$\langle \widetilde{u_i} \rangle^\dagger = \langle u_i \rangle^{\text{RANS}}, \quad (72)$$

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger = \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^{\text{RANS}} - \langle \tau_{ij} \rangle, \quad (73)$$

where the superscript RANS is the self-explanatory and $\langle \tau_{ij} \rangle$ is the contribution of the subgrid scales to the Reynolds stresses in the LES computation. Note that, in the RANS context, $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^{\text{RANS}}$ denotes the Reynolds stress tensor.

The evaluation of $\langle \tau_{ij} \rangle$ is not straightforward since, for standard algebraic subgrid scale models, such as the Smagorinsky model used herein, only the deviatoric part $\langle \tau_{ij}^d \rangle$ of the subgrid scale tensor is modeled. To circumvent this limitation, $\langle \tau_{ij} \rangle$ is decomposed into

$$\langle \tau_{ij} \rangle = \langle \tau_{ij}^d \rangle + \frac{2}{3} k_\tau \delta_{ij}, \quad (74)$$

where $k_\tau = \langle \tau_{ii} \rangle / 2$. In contrast to $\langle \tau_{ij}^d \rangle$ that is evaluated during the computation from the resolved fluctuations, the subgrid scale kinetic energy is modeled as

$$k_\tau = C \frac{3C_K}{2} \left(\frac{\varepsilon^{\text{RANS}}}{\kappa_c} \right)^{2/3}, \quad C_K = 1.5, \quad C = 0.35, \quad (75)$$

which corresponds to the integration of a Kolmogorov spectrum beyond the cut-off wavenumber $\kappa_c = \pi / (\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z)^{1/3}$, with C a calibration constant introduced to account for the fact that the implicit LES filter is not a spectral cut-off filter. This constant is calibrated based on the DNS data of Moser *et al.*³² at $Re_b = 6881$ and the reference periodic LES at $Re_b = 7000$ of Sec. IV A, in order to ensure that the constraint

$$\int_0^h k dy = \int_0^h (k_r + k_\tau) dy \quad (76)$$

is fulfilled, where k and ε are evaluated from the DNS, and k_r and κ_c from the LES.

According to the parametric study of Sec. IV A, $\tau_v = 5h/U_b$ and τ_r are evaluated from the RANS computation as

$$\tau_r = \max \left(2\Delta t, 0.01 \frac{k^{\text{RANS}}}{\varepsilon^{\text{RANS}}} \right), \quad (77)$$

and the statistical averaging operator $\langle \cdot \rangle$ is approximated by an exponential time filter of temporal width $T = 100h/U_b$, using $\langle u_i \rangle^{\text{RANS}}$ and $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^{\text{RANS}}$ as initial values.

2. Results

The ALF method is applied to the same flow configuration as in Sec. IV A, with two major differences: the target statistics are not given by a periodic LES, but rather by a RANS computation, accounting for the subgrid scale contribution (Eq. (73)); only a restricted region, downstream of the inlet, is forced, using the local RANS statistics. The length of this overlapping region in the stream-wise direction is denoted by L_x^f . The ALF is applied over the entire extent of the domain in the y and z directions.

In the RANS domain, a low-Reynolds number second moment closure, the EB-RSM^{21,33,34} is used. In the LES domain, of size $20\pi h \times 2h \times \pi h$, the Smagorinsky model is used and the mesh is similar to the one used in Sec. IV, with near-wall cells of size $(\Delta x^+, \Delta y_{\min}^+, \Delta z^+) \simeq (50, 2, 15)$. At the inlet of the LES domain, the mean velocity $\langle u_i \rangle^{\text{RANS}}$ of the RANS computation is imposed without any superimposed fluctuations.

The spatial development of the flow in the LES domain is observed by plotting the streamwise evolution of the friction coefficient,

$$C_f = \frac{u_\tau^2}{\frac{1}{2}U_b^2} \quad (78)$$

and the error functions

$$e_{k_r} = \frac{\int_{-h}^h (k_r - k_r^*)}{\int_{-h}^h k_r^*}, \quad e_{\langle u'v' \rangle} = \frac{\int_{-h}^h (|\langle u'v' \rangle| - |\langle u'v' \rangle^*|)}{\int_{-h}^h |\langle u'v' \rangle^*|}, \quad (79)$$

where the asterisk denotes the statistics of the fully developed flow, obtained from the periodic simulation presented in Sec. IV. Several lengths L_x^f of the forcing area are considered in Fig. 21. For each simulation, the origin is shifted to coincide with the end of the forcing region, $\tilde{x} = x - L_x^f$. It can be seen that, independently of the forcing length L_x^f , the turbulent fluctuations generated by the ALF in the overlapping region are sustained downstream. However, when L_x^f is increased, the spectral content of the flow improves at the end of the forcing region (not shown here), and as a consequence, the transient decrease of the fluctuations just downstream of the forcing region is reduced. A forcing length of $L_x^f = 5h$ is sufficient to obtain a very satisfactory development of the flow in the LES domain. With this forcing length, the maximum overestimation of the friction coefficient is within 6%–7% of the fully developed value C_f^* and is observed just after the end of the forcing region ($\tilde{x} \approx h$). Downstream $\tilde{x} = 5h$, the friction coefficient remains within $\pm 2.5\%$ of C_f^* . The error functions e_{k_r} and $e_{\langle u'v' \rangle}$ for the resolved turbulent energy and shear stress, respectively, are below 15% in absolute value throughout the domain.

The forcing length $L_x^f/h = 5$ is now selected for comparison with a hybrid RANS/LES computation using the Synthetic Eddy Method (SEM) of Jarrin *et al.*⁹ at the LES inlet boundary. In this method, the domain do not overlap, and unsteady Dirichlet boundary conditions for the velocity at

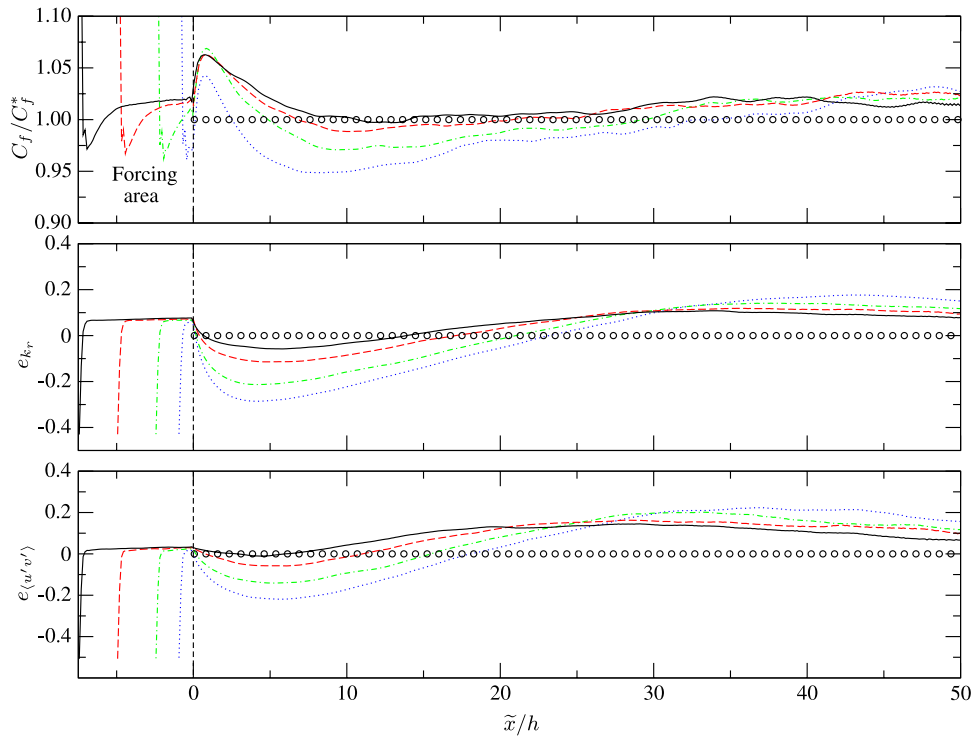


FIG. 21. Evolution of the friction coefficient and the error functions e_{k_r} and $e_{\langle u'v' \rangle}$. Symbols: periodic LES; lines: results in the LES domain of the hybrid RANS/LES computation using the ALF for $L_x^f/h = 1$ (blue dotted lines), 2.5 (red dashed-dotted lines), 5 (red dashed lines), 7.5 (black solid line).

the inlet of the LES domain are generated using the superposition of several coherent synthetic eddies evolving in a virtual “box” surrounding the inlet plane, using the RANS statistics as input parameters. Applying the renormalization procedure of Lund,¹⁰ the SEM generates velocities in the inlet plane that satisfy the first- and second-order moments of the RANS computation. This method was validated by Jarrin *et al.*⁷ in the context of RANS to LES coupling with a two-equations eddy-viscosity model. As described in Appendix B, the present SEM method is reformulated in order to take advantage of the anisotropic prediction of the Reynolds stress tensor provided by the EB-RSM second moment closure in the RANS region.

Figure 22 compares the friction coefficient and the error functions defined by Eqs. (78) and (79) given by the two approaches. For the sake of completeness, the results obtained using the isotropic version of the forcing method (ILF) are plotted as well. In contrast with Fig. 21, the profiles are plotted as a function of the original x coordinates such that $x/h = 5$ corresponds to the end of the forcing region for the ALF and the ILF computations. Globally, the discrepancies with the fully developed solution are substantially smaller with the forcing method (ALF or ILF) than with the SEM. However, the complete convergence toward the developed solution is longer with the forcing: at the end of the LES domain, the flow statistics are closer to the fully developed, periodic LES solution with the SEM than with the ALF or the ILF. Moreover, comparing the ILF and ALF results, it can be seen that the development of the solution downstream of the forcing region is only slightly slowed down when the anisotropy of the Reynolds stress is not enforced. These results show that the length of the forcing region is sufficient for the anisotropy to naturally develop as soon as the level of energy is imposed. However, it can be observed, in particular at the beginning of the forcing region, that the shear stress much more rapidly reaches the correct level with the ALF, due to the fact that it is specifically forced. This result shows that the ALF is preferable to the ILF, in order to avoid a stress depletion in the forcing region that can be at the origin of grid-induced separation.³⁵

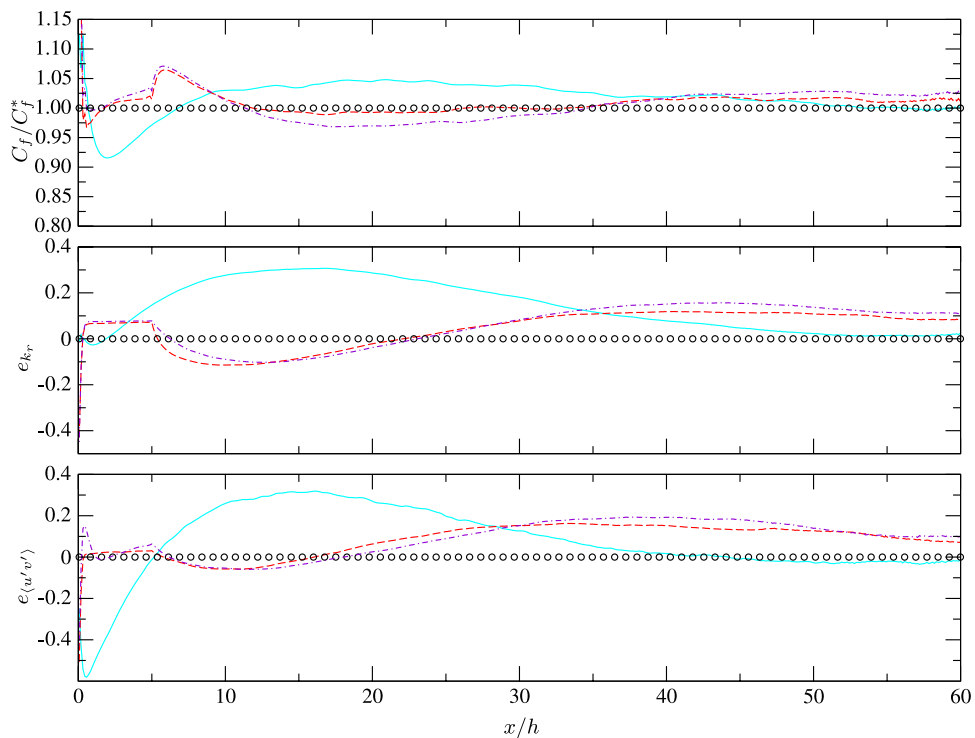


FIG. 22. Evolution of the friction coefficient and the error functions e_{k_r} and $e_{(u'v')}$ downstream of the LES inlet. Hybrid RANS/LES computation using the ALF with $L_x^f/h = 5$ (red dashed lines); the ILF with $L_x^f/h = 5$ (purple dashed-dotted lines); the SEM (cyan solid line) compared with periodic LES (\circ).

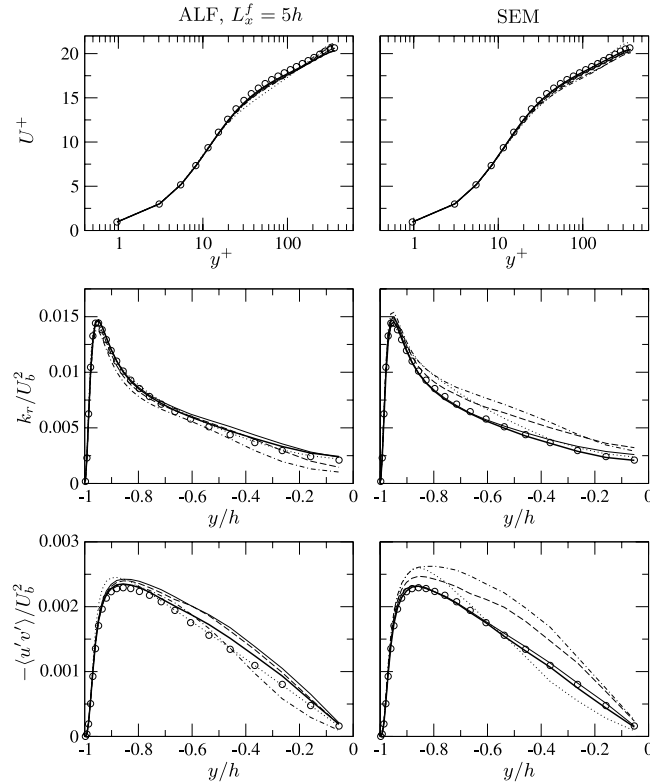


FIG. 23. Mean velocity, turbulent kinetic energy, and turbulent shear stress at $x/h = 5$ (dotted lines), 15 (dashed-dotted lines), 25 (dashed lines), 40 (black solid line, thin line), 60 (black solid line, thick line). Hybrid RANS/LES computation using the ALF with $L_x^f/h = 5$ (left) or SEM (right). Symbols: periodic LES; lines: hybrid computations.

Figure 23 gives a more local view of preceding observations. The mean velocity, the resolved kinetic energy, and the resolved shear stress profiles are plotted at various streamwise locations. With the ALF, the mean velocity and the Reynolds stress profiles are always close to those of the periodic computation. In particular, at $x/h = 5$, which corresponds to the end of the forcing region, the agreement is very satisfactory. This is mainly due to the accurate EB-RSM predictions provided to the ALF as target statistics, since the contribution of the subgrid scales, taken into account using Eqs. (73)–(75), is not significant in this case. Downstream of the forcing region, the turbulent stresses are first moderately damped in the core of the channel, which is visible at $x/h = 15$, associated with an overestimation of the maximum velocity. Downstream, the missing turbulent fluctuations build up, leading to an overestimation of the turbulent stresses in the core region of the flow, and eventually a convergence towards the developed values. Concerning the SEM, the statistics of the flow approach their fully developed values around $x/h = 40$, but significant discrepancies are observed upstream of this location.

Some remarks concerning the computational cost can be made from Table III where the average CPU time per time step and the average number of sub-iterations necessary to reach convergence in the pressure correction step are summarized. As expected, increasing the forcing length tends to increase the CPU time of the computation. The global number of additional floating point operations necessary to compute the parameters A_{ij} and B_{ij} of the ALF is proportional to N_f . Although there are large uncertainties in CPU time measurements, the evaluated coefficient of proportionality is about 1.5, i.e., a forcing in 10% of the computational domain leads to an extra CPU cost of 15%. More noticeable is the fact that the number of sub-iterations in the pressure correction step of the predictor-corrector algorithm is virtually unchanged by the introduction of the forcing. The situation is completely different in case of the SEM. Indeed, with this method—as for other synthetic turbulent inflow methods such as that of Batten *et al.*,⁸ for instance—the velocity imposed at the inlet does not

TABLE III. Comparison of the cost of the different computations. N_f/N : ratio of the number of forced cells to the total number of cells; CPU: average CPU time per time step; $n_{\Delta P}$: average number of sub-iterations for the pressure correction step. (The CPU time of the periodic LES is not given because the computation domain is smaller.)

L_x^f/h	N_f/N (%)	CPU (s)	$n_{\Delta P}$
ALF			
1	1.6	1.77	82.3
2.5	4	1.84	81.8
5	8	1.91	81.3
7.5	11.9	1.91	81.1
SEM			
...	...	7.24	802.6
Periodic LES			
...	81.5

satisfy the divergence-free constraint. The projection of velocity onto the solenoidal plane yields a significant computational over-cost and unphysical pressure fluctuations close to the inlet (see Poletto *et al.*³⁶). In contrast, with the ALF, the mean velocity imposed at the inlet is divergence-free and turbulent fluctuations are generated inside the domain by a forcing term. Consequently, although the transient at the beginning of the simulation is slightly longer with the ALF due to the relaxation time introduced by the Gaussian averaging, the total simulation cost is three times lower with the ALF than with the SEM in this case. This moderate CPU cost, in comparison with the SEM or similar methods, is a significant asset of the ALF.

V. CONCLUSIONS

A new forcing method has been proposed for the hybrid RANS/LES modeling of turbulence, in order to enrich the RANS solution at the interface between an upstream RANS and a downstream LES region. The method, the so-called *Anisotropic Linear Forcing* (ALF), introduces a time-dependent term in the momentum equation that acts as a restoring force toward a target statistical state. The very generic form of the forcing, a tensorial linear function of filtered velocity, is such that the ALF can be seen as a generalization of several body forces for RANS/LES volume coupling proposed in the literature.^{12,13,15} In addition, for isotropic turbulence, the ALF reduces to the isotropic linear forcing proposed by Lundgren¹⁹ and further analyzed by Rosales and Meneveau.²⁰

After verifying that the interesting properties of linear forcing of isotropic turbulence are preserved with the ALF formulation, it was shown in homogeneous turbulence that the ALF is able to enforce any turbulent anisotropy, within an accuracy that is controlled by the relaxation time scale τ_r .

In order to investigate in detail the influence of the parameters of the ALF, the case of a spatially developing channel flow at $Re_b = 7000$ has been considered, where the ALF is used to drive the flow towards the fully developed statistics of an auxiliary periodic computation. This case showed the ability of the ALF to rapidly generate coherent turbulent fluctuations, despite inlet boundary conditions independent of time. The sensitivity study is used to parametrize the method for subsequent zonal RANS/LES applications. The selected parameters are such that the first and second velocity moments of the forced LES are very close to the target statistics of the ALF and a realistic spectral content of the flow is ensured. The main parameter is the eddy turnover time that can be easily computed from a RANS simulation.

Applications of the ALF in zonal hybrid RANS/LES simulations of the developing channel flow were presented. A second moment closure, the EB-RSM²¹ was used in the RANS region. The parameters and target statistics of the ALF are evaluated from the RANS computation and the forcing is applied in a region of overlapping of the RANS and LES domains. The inflow boundary condition

for the LES is simply the mean velocity obtained in the RANS domain. A short forcing length of 5 channel half-width is sufficient to obtain a satisfactory spatial development of the flow, with minor adjustments downstream of the forced region. Although the distance after the inlet necessary to reach the developed level of the friction coefficient is still significant, this original approach for zonal RANS to LES one-way coupling improves the results obtained using the synthetic eddy method at the LES inlet—a RANS/LES coupling method first proposed by Jarrin *et al.*⁷ Moreover, the additional CPU time due to the method used to generate turbulent fluctuations is significantly smaller with the ALF than with the SEM.

The results presented in the present article are very encouraging and open the possibility for the ALF method to be applied in various situations. Although the present article focuses on zonal RANS/LES approaches, with discontinuous interfaces, the method has the potential for being applied in global RANS/LES approaches, with diffuse interfaces. In contrast with other approaches, such as those presented above, it does not require any information about the direction of the flow: since the forcing term is evaluated from local information only, it is of very general application. In particular, the method can be easily applied to damp the time-dependent fluctuations at the outlet of the LES region in case of a LES to RANS diffuse interface, and can be potentially applied in a tangential RANS/LES coupling as well, such that it may be a all-in-one solution for embedded LES. Furthermore, if experimental data are substituted for target statistics from a RANS computation, the ALF can be used to impose realistic “inlet” conditions (specifically, to generate a realistic flow field at the end of the forcing region) to a LES or DNS computation. Finally, future work will be dedicated to the extension of the method to the volume forcing of transported scalar fields, and to the promotion of turbulent fluctuations in the region of transition from a RANS to a LES behavior (the so-called *gray zone*) in global, or continuous, hybrid RANS/LES methods.

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APPENDIX A: FRAME INVARIANCE OF THE ANISOTROPIC LINEAR FORCING

As described in Sec. II C, the ALF is defined as

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{A}(\tilde{\mathbf{u}} - \langle \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \rangle) + \frac{1}{\tau_v}(\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle^\dagger - \langle \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \rangle). \quad (\text{A1})$$

\mathbf{A} is the solution of

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{\tau}(\mathbf{R}^\dagger - \mathbf{R}), \quad (\text{A2})$$

where \mathbf{R} denotes the resolved stress tensor and \mathbf{R}^\dagger the target resolved stress tensor. The explicit expression for \mathbf{A} is given by Eq. (35).

A general change of reference frame is described by an Euclidean transformation

$$\mathbf{x}^\star = \mathbf{Q}(t)\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}(t), \quad (\text{A3})$$

$$t^\star = t + \theta. \quad (\text{A4})$$

\mathbf{Q} is an orthogonal matrix satisfying $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}^T = \mathbf{Q}^T\mathbf{Q}$, where the superscript T denotes the transposition. By definition, the ALF term is frame-invariant, or objective, if and only if

$$\mathbf{f}^\star = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{f}.$$

A few assumptions are necessary for this property to be satisfied.

- (i) The LES filter is isotropic. This assumption is made by Speziale^{37,38} to show that

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{Q}^T(\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^\star + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \wedge \mathbf{x}^\star), \quad (\text{A5})$$

with $\mathbf{\Omega}$ the rotation vector of the reference frame, that is the dual vector of the skew-symmetric matrix $\mathbf{Q}\dot{\mathbf{Q}}^T$,

$$Q_{ik}\dot{Q}_{jk} = \epsilon_{imj}\Omega_m$$

(ϵ_{imj} denotes the permutation tensor). This assumption is necessary to ensure that the resolved stress tensor \mathbf{R} is objective. Indeed, the application of the Reynolds operator to Eq. (A5) gives

$$\langle \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \rangle = \mathbf{Q}^T (\langle \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \rangle^* + \mathbf{\Omega} \wedge \mathbf{x}^*) \quad (\text{A6})$$

such that the filtered velocity fluctuation is objective,

$$(\tilde{\mathbf{u}} - \langle \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \rangle) = \mathbf{Q}^T (\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^* - \langle \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^* \rangle), \quad (\text{A7})$$

and consequently, the resolved stress tensor \mathbf{R} is objective as well,

$$\mathbf{R}^* = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}\mathbf{Q}^T. \quad (\text{A8})$$

- (ii) The target statistics of the ALF exhibit the same transformation properties as the resolved statistics, that is,

$$\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle^\dagger = \mathbf{Q}^T ((\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle^\dagger)^* + \mathbf{\Omega} \wedge \mathbf{x}^*), \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$\mathbf{R}^\dagger = \mathbf{Q}^T (\mathbf{R}^\dagger)^* \mathbf{Q}. \quad (\text{A10})$$

This assumption is not restrictive, since they are typically given by an experiment, a DNS, or a RANS computation. RANS models are formulated in such a way that the modeled Reynolds stress satisfies Eq. (A10).

- (iii) The τ_v and τ_r parameters of the forcing are objective scalars,

$$\tau_v = \tau_v^*, \quad \tau_r = \tau_r^*. \quad (\text{A11})$$

This assumption is satisfied if they are imposed constant or function of objective quantities, such as the eddy turnover time in the present article.

Now that the framework is specified, it is a simple matter to check that the mean part of the ALF—the second term in the rhs of Eq. (A1)—is objective, by combining Eqs. (A6), (A9), and (A11). As regards the fluctuating part, Eq. (A7) shows that the fluctuating filtered velocity is objective, such that the last property to demonstrate is the objectivity of the tensor \mathbf{A} . Explicit expression (35) symbolically writes

$$\mathbf{A} = g(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{H}), \quad (\text{A12})$$

where \mathbf{H} , defined by

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{1}{\tau_r} (\mathbf{R}^\dagger - \mathbf{R}),$$

is an objective tensor (see Eqs. (A8), (A10), and (A11)),

$$\mathbf{H}^* = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{Q}^T. \quad (\text{A13})$$

Moreover, the g function in Eq. (A12) is an isotropic tensor function,³⁹

$$g(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}\mathbf{Q}^T, \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{Q}^T) = \mathbf{Q}g(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{H})\mathbf{Q}^T. \quad (\text{A14})$$

The combination of Eqs. (A8), (A13), and (A14) shows that \mathbf{A} is an objective tensor, and consequently, the ALF term is objective under assumptions (i)–(iii).

APPENDIX B: FORMULATION OF THE SYNTHETIC EDDY METHOD AND COUPLING WITH A SECOND MOMENT CLOSURE

With the synthetic eddy method of Jarrin *et al.*,⁹ unsteady Dirichlet boundary conditions for the velocity are generated using a set of coherent synthetic eddies evolving in a virtual “box” surrounding

the inlet plane. The method uses the decomposition of Lund *et al.*¹⁰

$$\tilde{u}_i = \langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger + a_{ij}^\dagger X_j, \quad (\text{B1})$$

where the first term on the rhs is the target mean velocity at the inlet and the second term is the fluctuating part. a_{ij}^\dagger is the lower triangular matrix defined by the Cholesky factorization of the target resolved stress tensor,

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger = a_{ik}^\dagger a_{jk}^\dagger,$$

and X_j is a centered and unit random variable. The Lund *et al.*¹⁰ decomposition ensures that the first and second order velocity moments are $\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger$ and $\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger$, respectively.

The specificity of the SEM, compared to other synthetic inflow methods as that of Batten *et al.*,⁸ is the definition of the X_j variable. It mathematically expresses the phenomenology of the method,

$$X_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{\lambda=1}^N \epsilon_j^\lambda f_{\sigma(\mathbf{x})}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^\lambda). \quad (\text{B2})$$

\mathbf{x}^λ is the position of the eddy λ in the virtual box \mathcal{B} . It is initially randomized, with a uniform probability density, and then advanced in time during the computation by

$$\mathbf{x}^\lambda(t + \Delta t) = \mathbf{x}^\lambda(t) + U_b \Delta t,$$

where U_b is the bulk velocity at the inlet. ϵ_j^λ and f_σ give the sign and the amplitude of the contribution of the eddy λ to the fluctuating field: ϵ_j^λ is randomized within the set $\{-1, 1\}$ and the shape function of the eddies f_σ , which gives coherence to the velocity at the inlet, is given by

$$f_{\sigma(\mathbf{x})}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^\lambda) = \sqrt{\frac{|\mathcal{B}|}{\sigma^3}} f\left(\frac{x - x^\lambda}{\sigma}\right) f\left(\frac{y - y^\lambda}{\sigma}\right) f\left(\frac{z - z^\lambda}{\sigma}\right), \quad (\text{B3})$$

with

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}(1 - |x|) & \text{if } |x| < 1, \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases} \quad (\text{B4})$$

It can be seen that the shape function f_σ is parametrized by a characteristic length scale σ of the eddies. The proper definition of σ is an important feature of the SEM, as confirmed by the study of Pamiès *et al.*¹⁴ Note that the box \mathcal{B} containing the eddies

$$\mathcal{B} = \prod_{i=1}^3 \left[\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}} (x_i - \sigma(\mathbf{x})), \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}} (x_i + \sigma(\mathbf{x})) \right] \quad (\text{B5})$$

also depends on σ .

The SEM can be easily applied to the one-way coupling of a LES inlet with a RANS computation, by using

$$\langle \tilde{u}_i \rangle^\dagger = \langle u_i \rangle^{\text{RANS}}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^\dagger = \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle^{\text{RANS}} \quad (\text{B7})$$

in Eq. (B1). The development of the flow in the LES region is sensitive to the definition of the characteristic length scale σ . In order to evaluate σ from the $k - \omega$ SST eddy-viscosity model used as the RANS model,⁴⁰ Jarrin *et al.*⁷ proposed the relation

$$\sigma = \min \left\{ \max \left\{ \frac{k^{\text{RANS}^{3/2}}}{\epsilon^{\text{RANS}}}, \max \{ \Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z \} \right\}, C_\kappa \delta \right\}, \quad (\text{B8})$$

where $C_\kappa = 0.41$ is the Kármán constant and δ is the boundary layer thickness.

In order to exploit the information about the turbulent anisotropy provided by a second moment RANS closure, three different length scales σ_i , corresponding to the three directions x_i , can be

substituted for the single characteristic length scale σ , leading to the anisotropic shape function

$$f_{\sigma(\mathbf{x})}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^\lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^3 \sqrt{\frac{|\mathcal{B}_i|}{\sigma_i}} f\left(\frac{x_i - x_i^\lambda}{\sigma_i}\right), \quad (\text{B9})$$

and the anisotropic virtual box

$$\mathcal{B} = \prod_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_i, \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{B}_i = [\min_{\mathbf{x} \in S} x_i - \sigma_i, \max_{\mathbf{x} \in S} x_i + \sigma_i]. \quad (\text{B10})$$

The proposed anisotropic length scales σ_i is a straightforward generalization of the expression of Jarrin *et al.*,⁷

$$\sigma_i = \min \left\{ \max \left\{ \frac{(\frac{3}{2} \langle u_i^2 \rangle^{\text{RANS}})^{3/2}}{\varepsilon^{\text{RANS}}}, \Delta_i \right\}, C_k \delta \right\}. \quad (\text{B11})$$

In this relation, the isotropic upper bound is the same as in Eq. (B8), in order to avoid unphysical length scales in the center of the channel.

Figure 24 presents the streamwise evolution in the LES region of the friction coefficient C_f and error functions (79) for the channel flow at $Re_b = 7000$ with the same mesh as in Sec. IV A. In order to investigate the influence of the accurate prediction of the turbulent anisotropy by the RANS model, a linear eddy-viscosity model, the k - ω SST model, is used in addition to the second moment EB-RSM closure. With the EB-RSM, both the isotropic, Eq. (B8), and anisotropic, Eq. (B11), definitions of the length scale are applied for comparison.

It is observed that when σ is isotropic, the use of the second moment closure EB-RSM in the RANS region slightly degrades the development of the flow in the LES region compared to the simulation using the SST model in the RANS region. This is somewhat surprising given that the EB-RSM

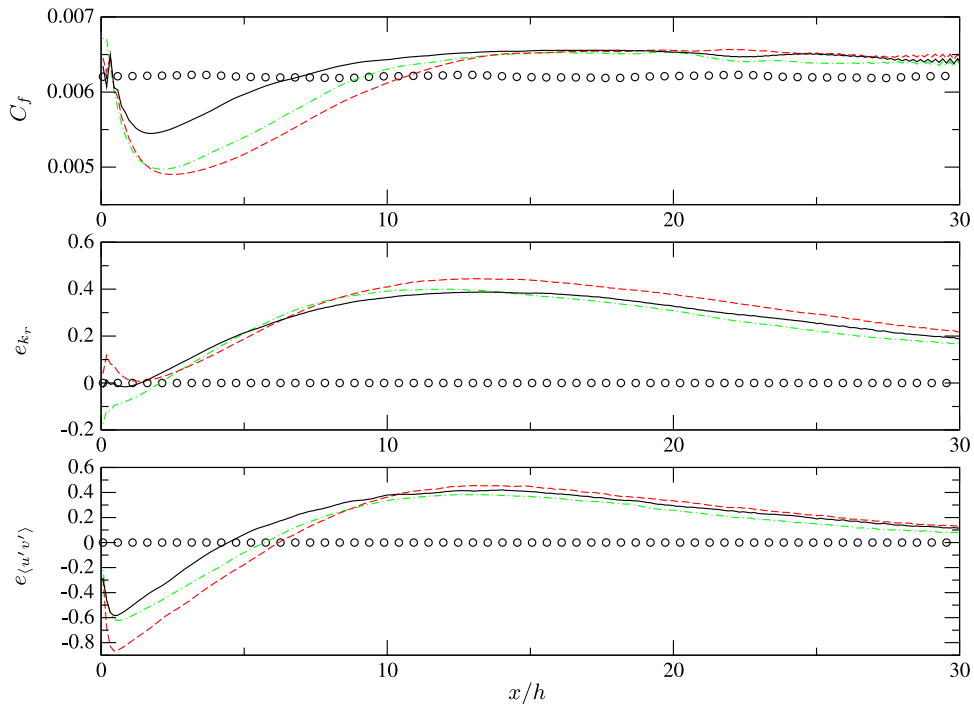


FIG. 24. Evolution of the friction coefficient and the error functions e_{k_r} and $e_{\langle u'v' \rangle}$ (Eq. (79)) downstream the LES inlet. Influence of the prediction of the anisotropy: green dashed-dotted lines: SST/Smagorinsky coupling; red dashed lines: EB-RSM/Smagorinsky coupling, with the isotropic length scale σ ; black solid line: EB-RSM/Smagorinsky coupling, with the anisotropic length scales σ_i .

predicts flow statistics in closer agreement with those of the periodic LES than the SST model. Nevertheless, it can be inferred that the eddy-viscosity hypothesis of the SST model, giving $\langle v'^2 \rangle = 2k/3$, tends to overestimate $\langle v'^2 \rangle$ and thus to promote the shear stress production $P_{12} = -\langle v'^2 \rangle \partial \langle u \rangle / \partial y$ downstream of the LES inlet, resulting in a better development of the flow. Using an anisotropic length scale in association with the EB-RSM, Fig. 24 shows that the spatial development of the flow in the LES region is significantly improved.

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